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## NEWS SUMMARY

### GENERAL

**ITV's soccer deal rejected**

The Office of Fair Trading has blocked London Weekend Television's bid for exclusive coverage of football games next season.

The OFT said yesterday that the deal was void under the terms of the 1973 Restrictive Trade Practices Act because it had not been registered in time.

London Weekend can now either seek a ruling from the Restrictive Practices Court on whether its agreement with the Football League should be registered, or renegotiate the agreement and provide the OFT with full details in time. Back Page.

**Iran crisis**

Iran's new civilian government faced a fresh crisis with the withdrawal of General Fereidoon Jami, who was expected to provide contact with the Shah and the military establishment.

In Paris, the Shah's main religious opponent, Ayatollah Khomeini, warned that there might be a military coup in Iran. Back and Page 5.

**Taiwan threat**

China said it might use force to reunify Taiwan with the mainland if the island refused indefinitely to negotiate or if Russia tried to interfere.

Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping said that Taiwan could keep its autonomy and existing social and economic systems.

**Belgian Premier**

Wilfried Martens, chairman of the Flemish Christian Democratic Party, agreed to form the next Belgian government and become the country's premier.

**Recognition offer**

Vietnam recognised the People's Revolutionary Council set up in Pnomh Penh as the legal government of Kampuchea (Cambodia).

Leonid Brezhnev promised the new rulers full support. Fighting continues. Page 3.

**Gulf denial**

Gulf Oil denied responsibility for the Beirut Ray tanker explosion in which 50 people died. The cause of the explosion has not yet been established. Page 2.

**Tanker safe**

The 132,000-ton Norwegian super-tanker Wilstar has arrived back safely at its loading port of La Spezia, Liguria, after the discovery five days ago of a crack in the deck.

**Tolls setback**

An attempt to stop the public inquiry into Government plans to raise motorway tolls failed yesterday. Welsh, British and Gibraltar councils had called for an estimate of better road costs and completion of a feasibility study of tolls.

**Briefly**

Two Kurdish soldiers in Vienna were shot and injured in an apparent attack on the son of a Kurdish nationalist leader.

Masked gunmen attacked a Rome radio station, wounding five people and setting the studio alight. Radio listeners heard the attack.

The two mountaineers who climbed Nelson's Column last October had a charge of criminal damage against them dismissed at Knightsbridge Crown Court.

Denmark's Home Guard has banned all exercises in Copenhagen's embassy district. A guardman had caused a diplomatic incident by resting on the doorstep of the Yugoslav Embassy.

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### CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISES	FALLS
Brown and Jackson 224 + 6	Williams and James 115 + 7
Dawson Intl. 39 + 5	Sogomana 203 + 16
Finlay 101 + 7	Roma Tea 285 + 30
Gough Bros 281 + 4	Charter Cons. 108 + 5
Highland Dist. 28 + 4	De Beers Ltd. 408 + 5
Horns Charm 245 + 11	Lydenburg 73 + 5
Lifood 243 + 41	Messina 74 + 12
Muirhead 227 + 11	Palabora 440 + 20
Nordin and Peacock 89 + 6	RTZ 233 + 6
Perry (IL) 120 + 8	
Rank Org. 276 + 8	
Restmor 77 + 8	Excheq. 91pc 32 - 5801 - 1
Rowton Hotels 107 + 8	Helma Lvs. 45 - 8
Samuel (H) A 204 + 6	Hammer 230 - 5
Samuelson Film 136 + 16	Lloyds Bank 290 - 5
Sanger (J. E.) 40 + 24	Negretti & Zimbara 75 - 4
Simon Eng. 268 + 5	Wigfall (H.) 247 - 8
Stanley A. 188 + 2	Ultramar 212 - 8
Startrite 130 + 6	Ashton Mining 73 - 4
Utd. Scientific 288 + 10	Cosmoine Riothno 283 - 7
Walker (J.) 125 + 6	Northern Mining 88 - 4

### BUSINESS

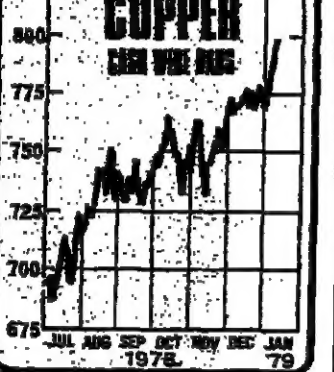
**Equities down 2.2; Copper price up**

**EQUITY** leaders were dull as the market reacted to the lorry drivers' strike and the threat of a national rail strike.

The FT 30-share index was 0.9 up at 10.00 but showed a net loss of 2.3 an hour later and closed that much off at 482.2.

**GILTS** also started firmly, helped by news that the Government had run out of supplies of the short-medium Exchequer 1986 10p. Shorts showed losses extending to 2. The Government Securities Index was 0.03 down at 68.49.

**COPPER** prices rose in London on reports that Zambian output would be cut by 15 per cent this year. Cash wirebars closed 56 up at 2798.25 a tonne, the highest since May, 1977.



**GOLD** fell 31 to \$322.1 in London in generally quiet trading.

**STERLING** was 67 points down at \$2.6190 following a sudden rise by the dollar towards the London close. Trade-weighted depreciation of the dollar narrowed from 9.4 per cent to 9.1 per cent in New York at close. Sterling's trade-weighted index was unchanged at 68.2.

**WALL STREET** near the close was 5.54 up at 333.63.

**MONEY** supply remained well under control last month, the underlying level of bank lending increasing modestly in line with the previous month. Back Page; table Page 26.

**VOLVO** shareholders were advised by the board of Sweden's Shareholders' Association to reject the sale of 40 per cent of the car and truck manufacturer to Norway. Back Page.

**DISPUTE** between Government and Air Canada likely over moves to force the airline to operate all passenger services from Gatwick instead of Heathrow by the early 1980s. Back Page.

**UNCUT** diamond sales world-wide last year on behalf of De Beers and other producers advanced by 23 per cent to a record \$2,220m (\$2,550m). Page 26.

**AL COMPONENTS** is negotiating with a British company to acquire a foreign company in its search for partners for a £24.7m Government-backed aluminium foundry project in Leeds. Page 7.

**ALLIED BREWERIES** has appointed two leading figures in the UK food industry as non-executive directors. Three months ago Allied acquired the Lyons food group in a £80m deal. Page 7.

**RFD GROUP** pre-tax profits slumped from £1.48m to £1.05m for the half-year to September 30, 1978, although turnover was higher at £9.72m (£9.39m). Page 24.

**HASLEMERE ESTATES** announced a £12.1m one-for-five rights issue. Page 25.

**HALMA** first-half profits before tax increased 26 per cent to £510,273 (£403,661). Page 24.

## Callaghan returns today to face Tory attack over industrial situation

# Lorry strike may be made official after peace bid fails

BY NICK GARNETT and PHILIP RAWSTORNE

Road haulage services could face an almost complete shutdown by the end of the week after failure of talks yesterday between employers and union officials.

An official national strike of up to 180,000 private haulage lorry drivers will almost certainly be sanctioned by the Transport and General Workers' Union tomorrow.

Talks between the Road Haulage Association and officials of the union failed to produce any solutions to the dispute.

The association estimated that 50,000 drivers were on unofficial strike yesterday.

The Prime Minister returns from his Caribbean talks today to face a concerted Tory attack on the Government's handling of the industrial situation.

A national haulage strike would virtually strangle all supply lines to industry and farms, already in severe difficulties from the unofficial action.

Mr. Callaghan, who has been kept closely informed of developments in the transport disputes and the looming threat from public service unions, is expected to plunge immediately into a series of consultations with Ministers.

The Cabinet is to review the situation tomorrow after a further meeting yesterday of its general committee under Mr. Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary.

Economic Ministers intend to pursue attempts to avert a pay confrontation with public service unions at a meeting tomorrow with the TUC's Economic Committee.

A stark reminder of the public service threat came yesterday when the General and Municipal Workers' Union leadership, traditionally Labour's strongest union supporters, decided to put £2m into the strike fund.

Mr. David Barnett, the general secretary, said his public service members could not accept a situation where there was free collective bargaining without sanctions in the private sector but not in the public.

He and other TUC leaders are urgently looking for some pay comparability formula that would be acceptable to the Government and avert a collision.

Political pressures on the Government increased markedly as the Conservatives, with an eye to the General Election, unleashed a broadside of criticism.

Continued on Back Page

# Lay-offs could top 1m mark

BY COLLEEN TOOMEY

WELL OVER a million workers could be laid off by the end of next week if the lorry drivers' strike becomes official.

The Confederation of British Industry said yesterday that 750,000 employees could be sent home by then in the West Midlands. In Ulster the CBI said it knew of at least 10,000 lay-offs already and the number is growing.

At least 100,000 workers could be laid off in London by the weekend if the strike is not settled, according to the London Chamber of Commerce.

As imports pile up at Britain's ports, many companies face a severe shortage of raw materials. Some are already using reserve supplies which will last for another two to 10 days.

One-third of all port traffic in Britain, particularly general cargo and manufactured goods, is carried by lorry.

Few regions have escaped the effects of picketing by lorry drivers although strike action is still confined to key areas and rather patchy.

The North-west has been particularly hard hit and the petrol tanker drivers' strike all but dried up fuel supplies in the Manchester and Merseyside areas.

In the North-east, engineering companies are reporting reasonable raw material stocks but finished products destined for export are being turned away at the docks.

All UK tinplate production is likely to dry up by the weekend unless the strike is settled. British Steel Corporation's three tinplate works in South Wales have cut production as picketing intensified.

Imperial Chemicals Industries is now seriously considering the position of some of its 90,000 UK employees in the likelihood of the strike continuing beyond the weekend.

The soft drinks industry is expected to close after today because of a shortage of sugar, carbon dioxide and bottles. Supplies of sugar to the British food industry have virtually dried up, the Food Manufacturers' Federation said last night.

Fuel supply shortages were still taking their toll on transport and schools yesterday. In some of the worst-hit areas more than one-third of schools were shut yesterday because of the shortage of heating oil.

In Strathclyde, 460 schools and colleges were closed, affecting more than 200,000 children.

Bus companies throughout the country continued to operate reduced services. National Bus said that a number of its subsidiary companies were limiting services to conserve fuel supplies.

Full effects Page 8

# 'Little progress' in rail talks

By Philip Bassett, Labour Staff

THE THREAT of a national rail strike next week moved closer yesterday when talks on a 10 per cent productivity claim from the train drivers union ASLEF failed to reach agreement.

The union and British Rail meet again for full negotiations this morning, but if the union is still not satisfied with British Rail's response its executive will this afternoon finalise plans for a national strike.

Mr. Ray Buckton, ASLEF general secretary said after the meeting yesterday of a productivity working party that very little progress had been made.

The British Rail Board had suggested an offer of about 6 per cent in response to the claim, but Mr. Buckton said the attached conditions "would worsen the conditions of our members to such an extent they would not be able to persuade them to accept it."

The board is looking for an extension to more services of the present agreement with ASLEF and the National Union of Railwaymen, on the level of single- and double-manning by train drivers.

The offer, worth between £3.76 and £4.39 to drivers, is also conditional on the union agreeing greater flexibility of work patterns.

The full negotiations today under the Railway Staffs National Council are effectively only a repeat back of yesterday's working party and so seem unlikely to avert the strike threat.

Drivers in British Rail's Southern Region are due to take unofficial strike action over the claim today which is expected to affect severely services in the region.

The Department of Employment, yesterday approved a separate national productivity deal back-dated to April last year and based on improved business performance. The deal, which applies to all rail unions, gives about 2½ per cent—about £2.00 more a week.

**£ in New York**

	Jan. 8	Previous
Spot	\$2.6190-0.0000	\$2.6216-0.0000
1 month	0.85-0.10	0.85-0.10
3 months	0.70-0.05	0.67-0.02
6 months	2.50-3.50	2.50-2.10

# EEC may oppose use of shipbuilding aid fund

BY GILES MERRITT IN BRUSSELS AND LYNTON MCLEIN IN LONDON

THE GOVERNMENT has been warned by the EEC Commission that it is now unlikely to receive approval to use the £85m intervention fund the Government set up to subsidise new shipbuilding orders.

Without the fund, Britain's shipbuilding industry may be forced to find other ways of financing the losses on ships being built, with unsubsidised costs for each ship 30 per cent higher than those in competitive foreign yards.

The alternative would be for British builders to lose orders to overseas yards.

The Commission's competition directorate agreed to the use of the fund in July, but only until December 31. A further formal application to use the fund to subsidise ship orders is now necessary, but the Commission

made it clear that it will not allow any further aid for the UK shipbuilding industry until the UK Government submits its plans for restructuring the industry.

The bulk of the UK shipbuilding industry is now accounted for by British Shipbuilders, the nationalised corporation.

British Shipbuilders' corporate plan for restructuring the industry was sent to the Industry Department at the end of December. Mr. Eric Varley, Industry Secretary, has started to consider the plan as a matter of urgency and meetings with Britain's shipbuilding unions and British Shipbuilders may take place later this month to discuss the plan.

The Industry Department did not know when the final plans for restructuring the industry

would be ready to go to Brussels, but the department said the EEC was considering an extension of two or three months to the time for which the £85m fund is available.

In the meantime, the EEC would still consider applications to use the fund, the Department said.

It had been expected that the EEC Commission would give the go-ahead to British Shipbuilders contracts worth over £50m for five vessels. But the failure of the British Government to provide the details of its restructuring plans had meant that the necessary specific permissions had been withheld.

Work on one of the orders, for two refrigerated container vessels worth a total of £36m

# Amex bids for McGraw-Hill

BY STEWART FLEMING IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN EXPRESS, the largest U.S. financial conglomerate, yesterday launched a surprise \$830m cash takeover bid for McGraw-Hill, one of the world's leading publishing houses whose interests include Business Week magazine and the Standard and Poor's debt rating and financial information concern.

The move seems destined to stir up intense controversy in Washington where both the U.S. Justice Department and Senator Edward Kennedy are preparing new anti-trust legislation which would be designed to block precisely this sort of large acquisition. Share analysts, however, suggest that the proposal would not fall foul of existing legislation.

Although the Carter Administration has yet to finalise its

attitude to anti-trust law reform, a presidential commission is completing a study of the issues. The White House is thought to be examining its position.

The American Express move came on Monday night when its top executive officers took a letter outlining the terms of the proposal to McGraw-Hill's headquarters in New York.

Yesterday morning as the news was released to the public and McGraw-Hill's shares did not open for trading, the company said it was preparing a statement on the bid. The deal does not appear to have been pre-arranged by the companies.

The American Express offer is \$34 a share in cash, which compares with a closing price for McGraw-Hill on Monday of \$24½. The offer is worth

approximately 13.9 times the \$51.4m, or \$2.08 a share, earnings reported by the publishing concern last year.

Concern about the economic implications of the current merger wave sweeping the U.S. as well as anxiety about the social and political impact of giant corporations lie behind the radical proposals for reforming anti-trust law being drawn up in Washington.

Earlier in the month the Justice Department announced that it was examining legislation which would ban mergers of companies with combined assets or sales of \$30m or more.

American Express is being advised by Blyth Eastman Dillon and Lazards.

Diversification is the Key Page 27

## CONTENTS OF TODAY'S ISSUE

European news	2	Technical page	9	Intl. companies	27-28
American news	4	Management page	11	Euromarkets	27
Overseas news	3	Arts page	13	Money and Exchanges	29
World trade news	5	Leader page	14	World markets	30
UK news—general	6-7	UK companies	24-26	Farming raw materials	31
—labour	8	Mining	26	UK stock market	32

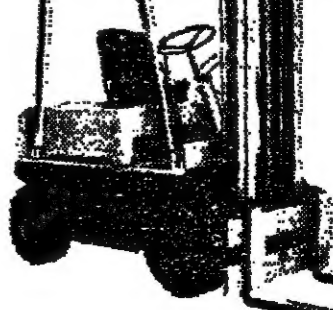
## FEATURES

Omens for a communist Indochina federation	14	Industrial relations in Brazil: Unions emerge	4	Gardens: Beans buplevers a beauty on the bank	12
The Scottish Chorn in Singer's side	23	Talks on EL aluminium works project	7	Irish dairy industry: The boom goes on... and on	31
The Bruno Kreisky era: Gamble to stay alive	2	They can't sleep nights because of strikes	11		

Appointments	10	European Optics	25	Men and Motors	14	INTERIM STATEMENT	
Base Rates	4	FT-Austrian	32	Share Information	34-35	Malma Ltd.	24
Contracts	10	Gardening	12	Today's Events	23	ANNUAL STATEMENTS	
Crossword	12	Letters	23	TV and Radio	12	Dubilier Ltd.	24
Emerald Guide	12	Lex	26	Unit Trains	23	Soc. In. Pirati SA	
Expend. quotations and yields	25-28	Lumber	12	Weather	30		

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## EUROPEAN NEWS

## Ankara awaits West's decision on aid

By Metin Munir in Ankara

MR. WARREN CHRISTOPHER, U.S. Under-Secretary of State, arrives here today to inform Ankara of the Western leaders' decision at the Guadalupe summit about helping Turkey out of its worst economic crisis, according to Turkish officials.

This would entail the formation of an emergency fund under the aegis of an international organisation, possibly the IMF or the OECD, to which Western states would be invited to subscribe.

West Germany and the U.S. are expected to be the largest contributors. Turkish leaders are hoping that the fund will amount to \$100-150m a year over five years starting this year.

Western diplomats and bankers think this an unrealistic expectation, saying that a single sum of \$750m-\$1bn is more likely. They caution that if and when such a fund is set up, it will entail lengthy legislative processes in each subscriber country as well as negotiations on rates of interest and maturity.

Such a fund could be vital in getting the Turkish economy back on the rails and propping up Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit who is becoming increasingly unpopular.

Turkey is also in the process of raising \$500m from the Euro-dollar market. The Ministry of Finance says that subscriptions to date have approached \$400m.

The country's plight was brought up during the Guadalupe meeting by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany.

A senior Turkish official commented: "A political will appears to have come about to help Turkey."

The Turkish economic crisis started at the beginning of 1977 with a severe foreign trade deficit, an even more severe foreign exchange shortage and galloping inflation. The country could not pay for imports or service debts. The GNP growth rate declined to less than half the average 7 per cent of the 15 years preceding the recession.

Last April Turkey concluded a stand-by agreement for \$450m over two years with the IMF. A debt rescheduling programme was implemented. Austerity measures were introduced. However, the crisis persevered in 1978 and spilled into 1979.

It has become clear that Turkey could not come to grips with its problems unless a politically-motivated fund was forthcoming from the West.

Mr. Ecevit underlined this necessity in Western capitals since he assumed office almost exactly a year ago. However, his pleas fell on deaf ears.

Two developments appear to have made a radical change in the West's thinking. The first has been the de-stabilisation of the so-called northern tier of countries under the belly of the Soviet Union. Pakistan and Afghanistan have long been in a state of political uncertainty. Iran is in a state of chaos which might well get worse if, as is widely predicted, the Shah is unable to retain his throne.

The second development was the massacre which occurred in the eastern Turkish town of Kahramanmaraş over Christmas. More than 100 people lost their lives in this event—the worst case of civil disorder in modern Turkish history. Mr. Ecevit was obliged to declare martial law in 13 of Turkey's 67 provinces, including Ankara and Istanbul.

Kahramanmaraş appears to have demonstrated to the West that, after years of increasing violence, Turkey was close to civil war.

Editorial comment, Page 14

## Swiss salaries expected to rise only 0.5%

By Brij Khindaria in Bern

SWISS salary increases this year are unlikely to be above an average 0.5 per cent, according to Mr. Heinz Aenspach, director of the Swiss Employers' Association. He expects a slight increase in unemployment among Swiss nationals, raising the total at the year's end to more than 20,000.

Switzerland imports foreign workers, mainly Italians, under a system of short-term work permits and so far has handled unemployment problems by cancelling or not renewing permits. This has kept unemployment among Swiss citizens at low levels, although most branches of Swiss industry have experienced recession in recent years.

Mr. Leo Scheuermann, director of the Swiss National Bank, agrees with Mr. Aenspach that Switzerland can expect gross national product growth of about 1 per cent this year, combined with an inflation rate of only 2 per cent. But there is some controversy over a forecast by the Economic Research Institute that salaries might rise by as much as 3 per cent on average.

A report on economic prospects by the Union Bank of Switzerland, one of the country's largest banks, says that exchange rate trends again will play a dominant role in shaping the economic scene this year.

## Swedish budget aims at export promotion

BY WILLIAM DULLFORCE IN STOCKHOLM

THE BUDGET and Economy Minister, Mr. Ingemar Mundebo, yesterday presented a budget for 1979/80 with a record deficit of SKr 450m on total expenditures of SKr 172bn (£19.8bn). The Budget is designed to reinforce Sweden's economic recovery by promoting the growth of exports and investments. At the same time the Government's commitments to control inflation and maintain employment are re-emphasised.

In his accompanying finance plan, Mr. Mundebo forecasts an acceleration in Sweden's economic growth this year. Gross National Product is expected to increase by 5.4 per cent compared with the preliminary estimate of 2.5 per cent for 1978.

The economic recovery has so far been almost entirely exported, but the finance plan provides for a cautious 2.8 per cent growth in private consumption this year following the decline of just over 1 per cent in 1978. The rate of growth in public consumption is estimated to decline from 3.2 per cent last year to 2.7 per cent in 1979.

Preliminary estimates for 1978 show a transformation of the trade balance from a deficit of SKr 4.6bn in 1977 to a surplus of SKr 6bn. This enabled the deficit on the payments balance to be cut from SKr 12.5bn to SKr 3.9bn. The finance plan assumes a trade

balance surplus of SKr 6.9bn in 1979 but debt servicing will enlarge the payments deficit to just under SKr 5bn.

In contrast to last year when foreign trade made the largest contribution to GNP growth, the most expansive demand components in 1979 are expected to be the build-up in inventories, the increase in private consumption and a revival in gross investment.

Mr. Mundebo gives priority to the fight against inflation. The increase in consumer prices was restricted to 7.5 per cent last year and fell well short of the threshold which under the two-year national incomes settlement would have sparked off new wage negotiations last month.

The minority Liberal Government's target is to keep prices rises to between 5 and 6 per cent in 1979 as a whole and to beat again the 5 per cent increase between December, 1978, and October, 1979, allowed for in the incomes settlement.

The main factors promoting the budget deficit are the "automatic" increases in spending on social affairs and education. Thus, over the last five years there has been a 90 per cent growth in pension and health insurance charges to SKr 30bn, a 100 per cent rise in education spending to SKr 22bn and a 100 per cent increase in children's allowances to SKr 11bn.

## Finnish wage plan agreed

BY LANCE KEYWORTH IN HELSINKI

A NEW incomes policy agreement at central level was finally concluded yesterday after months of negotiation between the Finnish Government and the central federations of employers and unions. It covers the period from February 1 this year to February 28, 1980.

The agreement, combined with benefits promised under existing labour contracts, will raise wage costs this year by at least 11 per cent.

The new agreement consists of two closely linked parts: the framework labour contracts for the public and private sectors, and the Government's support programme in the form of temporary tax concessions, social security premium reductions and unemployment relief measures.

The package will, the Government claims, enable a 5 per cent increase in GDP (instead of the 3.5 per cent predicted earlier)

and a reduction in the unemployment rate from 8 per cent to about 6 per cent during the year.

The labour contracts foresee a nominal wage increase of 2.25 per cent from February 1, plus certain fringe benefits. If the consumer price index rises 5 per cent by October, a further 1 per cent wage increase will be granted in December.

In addition there is an earnings guarantee increment, in effect compensation for industrial wage drift of 1 per cent in December and 0.5 per cent in March 1980.

Under the existing labour contracts which expire on February 28, 1979, benefits already promised will raise employers' wage costs by about 7 per cent this year. Adding the new costs to this takes the total rise up to over 11 per cent, and this is without any of the extra price-linked increases.

## Dutch union pay demand

HOLLAND'S largest trade union federation, the FNV, will demand an extra Fl 20 (\$10) a month for each employee in the forthcoming 1979 wage negotiations on top of full price compensation. This is necessary to maintain the real disposable income of the average Dutch worker currently earning Fl 30,000 (\$15,000) a year, Mr. Wim Kok, chairman of the FNV, said.

According to official statistics, the average worker's real income will increase slightly this year but the reduction in family allowances, higher medical charges and planned tariff increases by local authorities will lead to a cut in the average family's income, the FNV believes.

The smaller CNV union federation said it does not plan to seek higher wages for its members since it believes full price compensation will be enough to guarantee incomes. But in view of economic uncertainties the CNV is keeping its options open and may make an extra wage demand later in the year if real incomes are threatened.

The FNV's demand will add just under 1 per cent to the wage bill of Dutch industry, although the union earlier said it might demand as much as 2 or 3 per cent.

The unions and employers are now starting wage negotiations on an industry and company basis following the breakdown of Novellist of central wage talks between the two sides and the Government.

Chancellor Kreisky, top, and opposition leader Dr. Taus: their popularity under test.

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Sr. Miguel Cruz Cuenca

## Spanish judge murdered

By Robert Graham in Madrid

A SENIOR Spanish judge, Sr. Miguel Cruz Cuenca, was yesterday shot dead outside his Madrid home by three gunmen. Sr. Cuenca's assassination brought the number of politically motivated killings to six since the start of the New Year nine days ago.

All previous killings have been claimed by the most militant part of the Basque separatist grouping, ETA-Militar. Spent shells of the type normally used by ETA assassins were found near the judge's body.

The attack bore similarities to that on the military governor of Madrid, Gen. Orta, who was killed outside his home in central Madrid last Wednesday. Yesterday's assassination took place in spite of a massive police hunt still on in Madrid for Gen. Orta's killers.

Sr. Cuenca is the second legal figure to be assassinated in recent months. Last year the former head of the new defence, State Security Tribunal was killed outside his Madrid home. If ETA is responsible, the latest act of violence against a symbol of the state underlines the movement's determination to escalate a war of nerves with the Government.

Most observers are convinced that hardliners within ETA are determined to provoke the armed forces into heavy handed action against the Basques. The cumulative effect of ETA violence directed against the state in the past six months has been to create a deep malaise within the armed forces.

Maltese fuel prices to rise

By Godfrey Grima in Valletta

FUEL PRICE INCREASES, the streamlining of certain social benefits and some economy cuts are expected to be announced by Maltese Premier Mr. Dom Mintoff's Administration in this year's Budget to be presented to Parliament on January 15.

This may exceed last year's M£100m (£135m) development and recurrent budget, but it raises problems. The island is still developing its economic and industrial base to gain self-reliance, but it must, from March this year, do without the M£15.5m British and NATO pay every year to use Maltese military bases.

Mr. Mintoff, in his new year's address, strongly intimated that the island faces increased petrol, fuel oil and gas bills. He also suggested there will have to be a cut in the number of imported cars.

He said in 1978 tourist income at M£50m had still not reached saturation point.

qucent return journey, with Wilstar in constant danger of exploding from oil fumes leaking through the crack, has been hailed in Norway as a triumph for Norwegian seamanship and expertise. Without these, and some good luck, the Wilstar could have become yet another name on the list of recent super-tanker disasters, say shipping experts.

Mr. Tor C. Konradsen, the tanker's captain, was in continual telegraphic contact with the whole operation costing the parties an estimated \$2m-\$10m should be over in just about four months.

Austrian boasts a relatively favourable economic situation compared with most other European countries. Dismissal of the labour force in the nationalised steel (particularly special steel) industry are not yet industrial enough factors to alter the political climate, as a whole.

With inflation below 4 per cent, the schilling still ranking

reference and the failure of the usually disciplined Viennese voters to turn up at the polls at the last municipal elections last autumn were an ominous straw in the wind.

It is not or not yet the dynamism of the political opposition, but rather the disenchantment of large segments of youth and among

Despite a series of political setbacks last year, Dr. Bruno Kreisky, the 68-year-old leader of Austria's Socialist Party, is confident that he will disprove Press reports about his fading popularity and be returned to power in a general election.

the 70,000 hard core Socialist activists which may produce a turn of the tide in favour of the populists.

Some observers believe that the sensational Press stories about the luxurious life-style and alleged private fortune of Dr. Androsch, who also owns one of the country's large chartered accountancy firms, may yet prove a serious liability to the Socialist Party.

It was in these circumstances, and faced with a series of regional and municipal elections scheduled to take place this year that Dr. Kreisky once

again seized the initiative, surprising both his followers and his adversaries. Even before the formal decision to hold early elections was taken, the opposition and industry and labour interests hastened to welcome the idea, albeit of course for different reasons. Instead of an election campaign lasting practically 10 months,

as a member, of the hard-currency bloc, the rate of seasonal winter unemployment in December remaining virtually unchanged at 2.8 per cent and a slight acceleration of economic growth to 3 per cent predicted for this year, Austrian society is stable because the people are better off than ever before.

The first Socialist poster on which a smiling "hard hat" proclaimed "we've never had it so good" is likely to be the basic theme of the Socialist propaganda. And the Chancellor will be presented as the supreme guarantee of both security and affluence.

But the Government's narrow defeat at the nuclear referendum last November shows that not even such a consummate politician as Dr. Kreisky can take the electoral behaviour of the 5m voters for granted. There is a more open game of political manoeuvres and the young voters, one in 10, also constitute a major factor of uncertainty.

Few people indeed share Dr. Kreisky's view that he could repeat the miracles of 1971 and 1973 by capturing an absolute majority. The odds are in favour of a reconstruction of the "great coalition" of 1964 and "blacks" which governed Austria between 1945-1965.

## Andreotti finalises recovery plan

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

It is already clear that the most sensitive parts of the plan are those aimed at tackling the deep-rooted difficulties of the south, and at holding down the growth of labour costs by wage restraint at direct odds with current union wage contract claims.

In what amounts to an Italian incomes policy, Sig. Pandolfi's strategy is to limit pay increases to those necessary to compensate for inflation not already covered by the automatic indexation procedure of the "Scala mobile".

In the last few days, however, the key metal and engineering workers have sent out claims to employers demanding not only an extra L30,000 (£17.50) a month, but also a cut in the working week to between 36 and 38 hours. The proposal is opposed by both the

employers and the Communist Party.

The Communists, who are intensifying their warnings to the Andreotti Government that it must adopt more effective policies, have made it clear that the continuing support is conditional on a really vigorous package for the Mezzogiorno.

Such measures would be the most natural way of generating the bulk of the 600,000 new jobs envisaged under the 1979/81 plan. A concrete promise of more employment in turn offers the best hope for the party to avoid a damaging split with its traditional union allies.

Which will hinge on the meeting planned for tomorrow between the Prime Minister and leaders of the major unions to discuss the plan, and also the desperate plight of the major chemical groups SIR and Liqui-

chims, whose most threatened plants are in the south.

The indications are spending of over L12,000m (£7.12bn) will be earmarked for the Mezzogiorno, though the chances of such sums being actually spent are doubtful. According to Sig. Paolo Savona, Managing Director of Confindustria—the employers' federation—for every L10 set aside for the south, 50 were spent 10 years ago, 30 five years ago, and only 20 today.

The plight of the south has overshadowed other sections of the plan, with which the individual parties have little quarrel. The goal is to reduce inflation this year to the 10.1 per cent range, steadily reduce the public sector deficit and secure a steady expansion of output by 4 per cent annually. Accompanied by a sustained increase in investments.

STEEP PRICE rises introduced in Hungary during the past week are intended to dampen consumption, but will not significantly restrain economic growth this year, Mr. Janos Fekete, deputy president of the Hungarian National Bank, said here yesterday.

Real living standards will increase by only 1.2 per cent this year against 3.5 per cent in 1978 and the 4.5 per cent to which Hungarians have been accustomed in recent years.

But the country's overall national income will rise only slightly less than last year's 4.3 per cent, he told the Financial Times in a telephone interview. "It doesn't mean a slump," he added.

Mr. Fekete was taking part in consultations in Basle between central bankers from East and West which take place here about every six months at the Bank for International Settlements.

The price increases, on petrol and many consumer goods, were necessary to adapt Hungary to world market prices, he said. A higher import bill for oil from the Soviet Union, which is gradually rising to world market levels the price of oil sold to Eastern Europe, had contributed to a worsening in Hungary's terms of trade.

Hungary was not, however, affected by the squeeze on oil supplies caused by the troubles in Iran. Of its 10m tons annual oil consumption, it buys 7.5m tons from the Soviet Union, produces 2m tons itself, it therefore relies on the world market for only 500,000 tons.

Poland pegs defence budget

By Anthony Robinson

IT NOW looks as though Poland has no plans to raise defence spending in 1979, at least, although Romania was the only country publicly to deny the need for an increase in national contributions to Warsaw Pact defence as called for at the recent Moscow summit.

While Party resolutions and the Polish Parliament formally endorsed the need for Warsaw Pact vigilance in view of increased spending by NATO, approved at the Washington summit last May, the latest budget provides for a 2.6 per cent increase in the defence budget, which is in fact, roughly in line with the rate of inflation expected this year.

Poland is one of several Comecon countries which have decided to scale back growth and investment this year in the face of heavy debt repayment commitments, energy shortages and consumer pressures.

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## Guerrilla fighting continues in north west Cambodia

BY RICHARD NATIONS IN BANGKOK

MR. POL POT, Cambodia's Premier, is in the country and leading a guerrilla resistance from jungle base camps organised long before Phnom Penh was evacuated. All the Government's key leaders, with the remaining defence forces, abandoned Phnom Penh hours before the final Vietnamese assault last Sunday at midday. This is the story told by Mr. Mihailo Lampar, the Yugoslav Ambassador to Phnom Penh, who crossed into Thailand with other diplomats and over 800 Chinese technicians on Monday. Mr. Lampar says he last saw Mr. Khien Sampan, Cambodia's President, and Mr. Ieng Sary, the Foreign Minister, at a farewell reception on Saturday for Prince Sihanouk, who was leaving for Peking. Prince Sihanouk told the gathering that the people's war would continue and that the "Kampuchea people would never surrender to the aggressor," a reference to Vietnam.

The capital was in the last stages of evacuation on Saturday evening, when Mr. Lampar left to return by road to Battambang, 170 miles northwest near the Thai border. Mr. Pol Pot, he was told, had already reached the Government's new jungle headquarters. Mr. Lampar said the diplomatic corps was advised that the Government could no longer guarantee their safety on January 2, and that night many foreign residents left Phnom Penh, with Prince Sihanouk for Battambang. The next day, Mr. Lampar and the Chinese Ambassador, Mr. Sun Hao, accompanied Prince Sihanouk back to Phnom Penh—again travelling by night for fear of bombing—where Mr. Pol Pot asked the Prince to travel to the UN to represent Cambodia at the special meeting of the Security Council yesterday.

The Phnom Penh diplomats do not know where the new headquarters is, but speculate it may well be in the Chantrea de Cardamome, in the south-west, ideal guerrilla terrain bordering Thailand, and edging into the country's vital central region.

The diplomats say they have heard that the Khmer Rouge had also evacuated Kratie at Stung Treng, crossing to the west bank of the Mekong River before Vietnamese occupation. Some think that many Cam-

## Hard times and hard bargaining in Iran

BY ANDREW WHITLEY AND ANTHONY McDERMOTT IN TEHRAN

IN THE bazaar all the shops are shut, corrugated blinds pulled tightly down in response to a two-month-old call for a total strike against the Shah. But the simple economics of demand and supply, and the Iranian's natural urge to trade, whatever the difficulties, especially after the closure of traditional outlets, has led to a growing sub-economy on the streets of Tehran.

In front of the drawn shutters, salesmen each have their small patches on the ground or stalls on which the demands of the hour are displayed. Clothes, anything from jeans (made in Taiwan) to garishly coloured sweaters against the cold, and strident underclothing are laid out in piles. Food is exempt from the religious prohibition on trading, but this did not preclude a stern warning from the opposition citadel in Paris against the inevitable profiteering. The best selling lines were torches for the nightly power cuts, lasting anything up to eight hours, and plastic Chinese contraptions, looking remarkably like hospital drips, for siphoning fuel.

And even though the shutters were down, the inevitable youths sidled up asking if we wanted to buy carpets. We were led off down an alley. A swift glance to left and right, and a shutter was rolled up, and smartly pulled down behind us. In the underground warehouse outrageously priced Baluchi, Turkoman and Isfahan carpets

were unrolled, and proffered. Pro forma bids made and rejected—and nothing bought. Business is bad, and the Jewish merchants who specialise in carpets and antiques are suffering worse than most. Elsewhere the fuel shortage is much in evidence. On the pavements there are long rows of coloured plastic containers for fuel oil—often without their owners. Outside the petrol stations, wisely guarded by troops to prevent fistfights between irate and frustrated drivers, the queues of cars (even outside closed stations) stretch, literally, for miles. The cars themselves, engines silent, are pushed up slowly by their drivers until dry tanks are filled and queuing put off for another day or so.

Racketeering, of course, abounds. Many of the taxi drivers, who have abandoned their regular rates and replaced them with exorbitant demands, have given up cruising the almost empty streets (where a few plucky individuals, including one daring American correspondent have taken to bicycles) and instead spend their time in petrol queues. Once the tank is full they sell the precious product to desperate motorists, then go home. There is also a rumour that after curfew hours the police help themselves at stations and run their own second-hand sales.

Newspapers reappeared on Saturday after a break of two

months in protest against the last military government. At the airport on Saturday, now almost deserted, the most visible event was a group of some 10 people crowding round a man with a newspaper. There were queues of 200 people waiting to buy Ertelast, normally 330,000, shot up to nearly 1m. A black market in these precious first editions has already started. The Tehran Journal yesterday in a sonorous editorial wrote: "As this editorial is being written, cars outside our building are honking their horns and people are waving their hands and shouting for joy at the reappearance of newspapers." 'Twas never so in Fleet Street. Meanwhile at the airport, one of the few baggage handlers at work demands 200 rials (nearly £1.50) for carrying two bags a few yards.

The attacks on banks and the temporary collapse of the banking system has also brought a welcome relief to the householder as the few telephone, lighting and telex bills actually being sent out are almost impossible to pay. But although the economic crisis has inevitably fostered people's ingenuity, and led to some slightly comical scenes, the fact remains that many people are indeed suffering—despite one of the warmest winters for years. Not everybody though: an escape clause in the customs officials' otherwise solid blockage of imports still lets in the foie gras and Scottish smoked salmon.

## Fall in S. Africa reserves

BY QUENTIN PEEL IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA'S foreign exchange reserves fell by R210m (£119.4m) in December, amid growing speculation about major changes in Government exchange rate policy which are expected to be announced before the end of the month.

Measures to stem the continuing outflow of both long- and short-term capital from the country, make South Africa more attractive to foreign investment, and allow more flexibility in the rand exchange rate, have all been under consideration by the Commission of Inquiry headed by Dr. Gerhard de Kock, deputy governor of the reserve bank and special advisor to Senator Owen Horwood, the Minister of Finance.

However, a continuing delay in publication of the Commission's recommendations, and of Mr. Horwood's response to them, has increased speculation over the possibility of a simultaneous devaluation.

Senior officials at the reserve bank have denied the rumours, and blame the bulk of the drop in reserves on seasonal factors, including the payment of year-end dividends by foreign subsidiaries operating in South Africa. But they admit that the decline in foreign exchange holdings to a level of R365m, was somewhat larger than expected.

Overall, South Africa's gold and foreign exchange reserves declined by only R35m to R2,040m in December, thanks to an increase in the gold component of R175m, a reflection of the increased bullion price. But reserve bank officials admit that

the foreign exchange component is uncomfortably small. An important factor in the continuing outflow of capital has been the switching of trade finance from overseas to domestic sources, because of the continuing rise in international interest rates coinciding with a drop in South African rates.

Although reserve bank officials say the position has stabilised since the beginning of the year, the combination of a reduction in overseas trade credits and in long-term capital inflows will continue to stretch the reserves unless Dr. De Kock can propose some dramatic incentives to reverse the flow.

There is considerable pressure from the business community for Mr. Horwood to combine his decisions on exchange control with a general package of stimulation to revive the faltering economic recovery, and this could include a small devaluation.

But in the wake of the OPEC oil price increase, which already has resulted in a 10 per cent petrol price rise in South Africa, there are strong arguments against such a further inflationary move.

One reason for the delay in Mr. Horwood's announcement is thought to be the division in the ranks of senior government advisors between those who believe some stimulation of the economy is now essential, and those who insist that inflation, persisting at around 11 per cent, must first be brought under control.

Meanwhile, Dr. De Kock's most significant recommendations are expected to make foreign investment in South Africa easier and more attractive. Although little has leaked out about his conclusions, the most popular suggestion is that he will propose a two-tier exchange market, with a continuing link between the rand and the dollar for ordinary transactions, but a separate "financial rand" reserved for capital transactions.

This could be accomplished by an extension of the existing securities rand market, those blocked rands created by the proceeds of the sale of South African securities by foreign nationals, which at present can be used only by non-residents for portfolio investments.

Such a system would mean that any intending foreign investor could purchase his rands at a discount (securities rands have traded recently between 30 and 40 per cent below the official rate) with the guarantee that he could repatriate his money through the same market.

An alternative, and one possibly easier to administer, would be for any potential investor to be given guaranteed forward cover by the reserve bank, as well as an undertaking that he can take his money out of the country again at the guaranteed rate.

Mr. Horwood's announcement is now promised before the opening of the new Parliamentary session on February 2. However it is unlikely that any decision can be taken for another week.

## Zambian mines face sharp production cuts

LUSAKA — Zambia's two main copper mining companies, short of skilled technicians and needing foreign currency to buy vital equipment, predicted yesterday that heavy production cuts would have to be imposed this year.

Unless foreign currency allocations are made available by the Government and foreign experts are found and retained, a production shortfall of 80,000 tonnes (more than a tenth of annual output) is likely, the heads of the companies announced.

Both companies, Roan Consolidated Mines (RCM) and Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines (NCCM), are owned by the Government but rely on several thousand foreign expatriates to run their mines. Mining is the biggest foreign currency earner for Zambia.

RCM's managing director, Mr. Davidson Phiri, said that his company's mines expected to lose 50,000 tonnes in production while NCCM's spokesman, Mr. Francis Kaunda, predicted a drop of 33,000 tonnes at his company's mines.

Mr. Phiri, underlining the seriousness of the situation, said that vital equipment at RCM mines was either lying idle due to shortage of spares or because machinery was being partially dismantled for use elsewhere.

The two companies together reported losing 253 foreign technicians last year, many of them veterans who had worked in the mines for years.

## Egypt goes for growth with a record budget

BY OUR CAIRO CORRESPONDENT

THE 1979 State budget presented to the Egyptian People's Assembly yesterday is the biggest ever—exceeding last year's allocation by over 30 per cent—and indicates that the Government is going for all-out growth to beat its problems with rising consumer spending.

Total expenditures this year are expected to be E£12.53bn (£17.01bn) and revenues E£10.25bn—leaving an overall deficit of E£2.28bn, which is well above the E£2.3bn ceiling agreed with the International Monetary Fund last June.

A major reason for the sharp rise in Government spending is an increase in subsidies, from E£680m in 1978 to E£1,177m this year. The abolition of the official exchange rate and its amalgamation into the parallel rate on January 1 removed a much-abused method of understating Government expenditures. It cost the Government an estimated E£470m, accounting for a large part of the subsidy increase.

Despite underspending on capital imports last year, the Government is stepping up capital imports this year to meet planned capital investment of E£2,560m. Mr. Mustafa Khalil, the Premier, has said this figure could be raised to E£3,000m if there are sufficient funds.

The import bill is expected to rise E£501m to E£4,511bn, broken down as follows: consumer goods E£1,224m; intermediary goods E£1,998m; and capital goods E£1,284m. Visible and invisible exports, primarily from workers' remittances, Suez Canal

revenues, oil exports and tourism, are expected to earn E£3,111m, or E£407m more than last year.

Other major expenditure items include the Government and public sector wage bill of E£1,358m and repayment of debt and interest payments of E£780m. Social services and housing development will take E£391m while special incentives for agricultural development—such as interest reduction on agricultural credits, the removal of duties on farm machinery and tractors—are expected to cost E£265m.

This year should also see the first fruits of the open-door policy. Of the 891 projects worth E£1,976m started up at the end of October last year, 857 worth E£1,824m are either producing or in the process of construction, it is officially claimed. They will provide an extra 198,000 jobs. The Government is committed to create an extra 304,000 jobs this year.

A major part of the increased revenues will come from taxes and duties, a policy to which the Government is committed as part of its campaign to win public support for austerity measures.

### Jenkins for China

Mr. Roy Jenkins, president of the Common Market Commission, will pay a one-week visit to China beginning on February 25, an EEC spokesman told Reuters.

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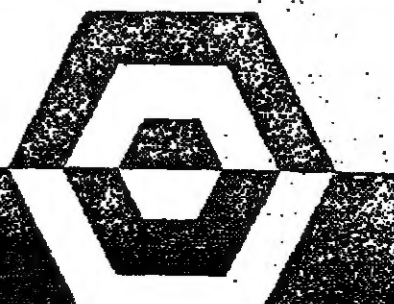
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## U.S. predicts mid-February conclusion of GATT talks

BY BRIJ KHINDIA IN GENEVA

MR. ALONZO MACDONALD, chief U.S. trade negotiator in Geneva, said yesterday that he was confident that the long drawn-out GATT negotiations can be concluded in the coming weeks.

Special teams of officials have arrived here from Washington to strengthen the U.S. delegation to the talks so that all unresolved issues can be handled simultaneously.

Removal of tariff barriers to trade remains a major point of difference between the EEC and Japan. The Japanese are now arguing that they cannot offer any further substantive concessions although the Community

sees their tariff-cutting offer as being far too small and selective. The U.S. has apparently reached satisfactory understandings with Japan, but has yet to settle its differences with Canada, which wants to ensure that the 1980s offer more opportunities to move out of the trading shadow of the U.S.

Rules concerning safeguards have also not been completed but the U.S. feels that this is more an issue between the Community and developing countries than among the developed nations themselves.

The Community wants to obtain the right to impose import curbs unilaterally against selected suppliers. This position

clearly violates existing rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and is strongly opposed by all developing countries.

U.S. sources expect the overall trade negotiations in Geneva to reach completion by mid-February, barring mishaps such as a Congress refusal to waive imposition of import duties on almost \$500m worth of Common Market products to counter alleged export subsidies.

This law came into force on January 3 but the U.S. Administration has promised to suspend its application pending a Congress decision.

## Japanese car sales up by 11.6%

By Charles Smith in Tokyo

JAPANESE DOMESTIC car registrations reached 4.68m units in 1978, the second highest level on record and an increase of 11.6 per cent over the 1977 level, the Japan Automobile Dealers Association announced yesterday.

The Association attributes the high level of car sales to the effect of stepped-up sales efforts by manufacturers coinciding with a natural peak in the replacement cycle of passenger cars. The all-time record year for domestic car sales in Japan was 1973 when sales reached 4.91m units. Car owners who bought new models in that year were changing their cars for the first time in 1978 industry analysts say.

The Automobile Dealers Association has not published figures for car exports (these are released by a separate organisation and will not be officially available until the end of January). According to preliminary estimates however, the industry shipped 4.58m units overseas in 1978. It was 5.7 per cent more than the 1977 figure.

Car exports were up sharply during the first two quarters of 1978 (by 27.8 per cent and 14.8 per cent respectively over the previous year's level).

## E. German and Polish shipyards show record output despite slump

BY LESLIE COLLITT IN BERLIN

EAST GERMANY and Poland have achieved record high output in their shipyards despite the general recession in world shipbuilding.

The reasons, according to the two Comecon shipbuilders, are that they avoided tanker construction which was the most seriously hit by the recession and had up to half of their production of specialised vessels bought by the Soviet Union. They maintain that their ships are not sold at "dumping prices" nor are favourable credits able to be offered.

East Germany last year turned out 58 ships totalling 406,000 grt, the largest output ever, with half of the ships bound for the Soviet Union under long-term agreements. Among the other customers were India, France and Norway.

This year the East German shipbuilding industry will continue turning out the all-container Mureur freighters and Atlantic super-tankers which are factory fishing ships. The Warnow shipyard at Warnemunde is building a 168 metre semi-container vessel of the newly developed Monsun series while a 22,000 ton universal freighter is being produced at Wismar's Mathias Thesen yard.

Despite the impressive statistics knowledgeable East

German say the shipbuilding industry, which was reeled from virtually nothing after the war to supply ships as reparations to the Soviet Union, has largely been a drain on the economy in past years.

A Polish economics writer, Mr. Kazimierz Zaleski, says Poland's shipbuilding industry climbed from fifteenth place in the world in 1976 to tenth place, a year later. Poland moved up from being the ninth largest exporter to become fifth, exporting 41 ships totalling 542,000 tons out of 67 ships produced totalling 603,000 tons.

Poland is said to have attained first place internationally in construction of chemical ships

with 36.7 per cent of world production, third place in LPG liquid gas tankers (20.3 per cent), fourth place in container ships (10.5 per cent) and fourth place in output of fishing vessels (11.5 per cent).

Last year orders for Polish ships are said to have remained at roughly the same level with the country taking five per cent of international orders or, eighth position internationally.

According to the Polish foreign trade organisation Centromor, no Polish ship was sold "under the world market price" and credit terms were not as favourable as those granted by Japanese and other competing shipyards in the west.

## Sharp rise in Israeli exports

By David Lennen in Tel Aviv

ISRAEL'S industrial exports grew by 26 per cent last year to total \$3.25bn. In addition, Israel's exports of polished diamonds increased by almost one third in the past year to \$1.25bn.

The director general of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Amos Mar-Haim, said that during 1977 there was a continued growth in exports by the metal and chemical industries. At the same time there was a fall off in the percentage of food and textile exports in the annual total.

## Soviet gas deal

WARSAW — Poland will receive a record 4.1bn cubic metres of Soviet natural gas this year, 60 per cent more than last year, the official Polish news agency said here.

The Soviet Union increased the supply from the 1978 figure of 2.5bn cubic metres as the first instalment to pay for Polish participation in the construction of the Soyuz gas pipeline from Orenburg in the Urals to Poland's border, the agency said. The volume of gas will increase again next year to total 5.3bn cubic metres, an amount which will then be supplied annually for 20 years. The dollar value of the transactions was undisclosed.—AP

## New OPEC ship policy urged

BY LESLIE MITCHELL IN KUWAIT

The Kuwaiti Oil Minister, Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, has suggested that the OPEC countries should by themselves decide how much of their crude oil and refined products must be transported in their own vessels rather than waiting for the problem of cargo preference to be solved through discussions with the importing countries.

He indicated that OPEC could make this percentage stick by linking the sale of crude and petroleum products to the use of the producing countries' tankers.

The Minister, who was the opening speaker at the Seatrade conference here on energy, trade and shipping, said, "I do not think that this problem can

be solved through dialogue because through dialogue very little has been given so far. "I think the only rational thing is for OPEC to agree collectively that a minimum percentage of its energy exports must be carried on its own tankers at rates that guarantee a reasonable return on investments."

The Minister said that if one of the OPEC countries did not have the tankers to carry the specified percentage and did not intend to invest in enough vessels, it should be entitled to a premium on its official oil price. The Arab tanker fleet is less than 1.5 per cent of world fleet tonnage and one third of that 1.5 per cent is laid up.

Kuwait now has two refined product carriers and intends to buy seven more. It has a crude oil tanker capacity of about 2.5m dwt, owns one LPG vessels and is awaiting delivery of four more of those vessels this year. It has tied the sale of its LPG to the use of its LPG tankers.

## Algeria lets contracts for LP gas plant and pipeline

ALGIERS — Sonatrach, the Algerian national oil and gas concern has awarded a contract for the construction of a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) treatment unit to a Japanese consortium formed by C. Toh and Ishikawajima-Harima heavy industries (IHI), the official Algerian Press service news agency reported yesterday.

The contract, signed last month, is worth 2.2bn Algerian dinars (about \$350m) and all foreign and local costs in goods and services have been entirely covered by loans.

The unit will be built in Bethioua, near Arzew, the main natural gas terminal on the Mediterranean coast. It will have four production lines and is expected to go on stream by the end of 1981. It will produce 2.2m tonnes of propane and 1.8m tonnes of butane a year.

The news agency also said Sonatrach is expected to ask soon for public tenders for a new LPG plant with 5m tonnes a year capacity.

Sonatrach has also contracted with the U.S. firm Bechtel for construction of a pipeline carrying up to 5m tonnes of LPG a year.

The 24-inch pipe, between the gas fields of Hassi Rmel and the methane plants of Arzew on the Mediterranean coast, will be 510 kilometres long.

The contract for about \$150m includes a loan for \$118m and the pipe should come into operation by the third quarter of 1981, with an initial capacity of 5m tonnes, to reach 9m when a second pumping station is completed.

Reuter

## Dutch chemicals industry sees better year ahead

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

HOLLAND'S EXPORT oriented chemicals industry hopes for a slight improvement in world markets in the current year following a disappointing 1978.

Markets for bulk products are picking up a little, export levels are being maintained and "miserable price levels" appear to have passed their low point, chairman of the Chemical Industry Association (VNCI), Mr. Eppie Ter Horst, claims. Little change is expected in the picture for specialty products which have fared better than the bulk sector in recent years, Mr. Ter Horst added in his new year review.

Expected downward pressure on the guilder this year may help the industry's exports,

which account for 80 per cent of sales, although a weak guilder in the long run, disadvantageous for Holland, he said.

Investment is expected to fall by Fl 600m (\$250m) to Fl 1.4bn this year. This will largely be due to the fact that investments planned before the 1973 oil crisis have now been completed while over-capacity in the bulk sector and the low expectations for economic growth are also factors.

Rising raw material prices and the threat of even greater losses which this poses appear to have persuaded the chemicals industry that higher prices will not necessarily lead to a loss of market share, Mr. Ter Horst commented.

## Jordan cement expansion

BY RAMI G. KHOURI IN AMMAN

THE CONTINUING high demand for Portland cement in Jordan has prompted the country's sole cement plant, operated by the Jordan Cement Factories Company, to embark on another \$50m expansion project.

It has also placed orders for 12m tons of imported cement to be delivered over the coming two years, in a deal worth \$72m.

An expansion project is already underway at the Fuhis cement plant where a fifth kiln is due to start producing

clinker or unground cement, in July this year.

But a sixth kiln will now be required. Cement Company managing director Shawkat Shoul said here over the weekend, and consultants for this new expansion project will be chosen in the coming three months, from a shortlist of eight.

Tender documents for the sixth kiln, estimated to cost around \$50m will be ready in July, he said. This kiln would be commissioned as a turnkey project, he added.

## BEI electricity testing for India

BY JOHN LLOYD

BRITISH ELECTRICITY International, the overseas consultancy arm of the British electricity supply industry, has won a contract from the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board of India for a series of tests on the recently constructed Ogra-Sultanpur line in Northern India.

BEI says that the tests will probably be the most comprehensive ever carried out on any 400 kV system. However no details on the value of the contract have been released. The test programme is planned for autumn 1980, and will

include line and transformer switching tests, fault throwing tests, radio interference and line impedance tests.

New testing equipment for the project will be assembled and proved in the UK under the supervision of the Central Electricity Research Laboratories.

The work will be carried out by staff from the research laboratory, and the Transmission Development and Construction Division of the Central Electricity Generating Board, supplemented by staff from the CEBB regions.

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Department of Energy.



## UK NEWS

# Ford leads UK car market sales and imports in 1978

BY KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

FORD WAS the major importer of cars to the UK as well as the market leader last year. About 35.2 per cent of the 392,366 Ford cars registered last year were imported.

Ford's imports represented 8.87 per cent of the total market compared with the 6.39 per cent achieved by Datsun, its nearest rival, which had sales of 101,735.

In spite of the strike which devastated Ford's sales during October and November, the group accounted for 24.65 per cent of the UK registrations last year.

According to Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders' statistics published today, total car sales reached 1,592m in 1978, representing a 20.3 per cent jump from the 1977 figure.

Registrations were the highest since the peak of 1,682m in 1973, but were slightly below the SMMT's forecast of 1.6m made early in the year.

## Distorted

However, the Ford dispute distorted the market very badly. In the nine months to September sales were 23 per cent higher than in the same period of 1977. In the final three months growth was only 7 per cent.

But the SMMT insists: "The fall off in sales in recent months does not represent the end of the boom in the car market." It forecasts sales will be around 1.55m in 1979.

Imports took 49.3 per cent of the 1978 market against 45.4 per cent the previous year. Boosted by "tied" imports by the major UK-based manufacturers, the Common Market countries accounted for most of the increase with their share of the total registrations moving up from 31.1 per cent to 32.8 per cent.

Vauxhall imported 26.8 per cent of the cars it sold last year, most of them Cavaliers from Belgium, while Chrysler's imports—including the Simca range—were a more modest 15.88 per cent of total sales.

The Japanese share of the UK market rose from 10.61 per cent to 10.96 per cent in spite of the understanding that it would not exceed the 1977 level.

The UK Department of Trade said this was "unfortunate" but there were special factors at work. Not the least of them was

	UK CAR REGISTRATIONS				12 months to December			
	1978	%	1977	%	1978	%	1977	%
Ford*	10,469	16.99	15,862	27.40	392,366	24.65	340,319	25.71
BL*	16,276	26.41	13,838	23.91	373,793	23.48	322,067	24.33
Vauxhall*	5,492	9.24	5,392	9.32	130,993	8.23	120,600	9.11
Chrysler*	6,486	10.53	5,190	8.97	112,562	7.07	79,730	6.02
Total British	28,750	46.66	31,957	55.21	806,872	50.68	722,967	54.62
Datsun	2,733	4.44	1,227	2.12	101,735	6.39	62,133	4.21
Fiat	2,774	4.50	3,004	5.19	72,192	4.53	66,915	4.99
Renault	3,287	5.33	2,004	3.46	69,627	4.37	55,862	4.22
VW/Audi	2,825	4.58	1,989	3.44	63,222	3.97	45,958	3.47
Total imports	32,870	53.34	25,926	44.79	785,069	49.32	600,577	45.38

\* Includes cars from companies' Continental associates which are not included in the total UK figures.

† Includes imports from all sources including cars from Continental associates of UK companies.

The Ford strike which had the effect of reducing the size of the market from the expected level.

The department apparently feels that the Japanese manufacturers have stuck to their word about shipments from Japan.

"We will be watching carefully in 1979 to see what the Japanese meant when they said in November that they would continue to be 'prudent' in their approach to exports to the UK," the department added.

Only Toyota among the Japanese failed to keep pace with the expansion of the UK market in 1978 and its sales rose 7.3 per cent. Datsun registrations jumped 23.8 per cent.

Among the smaller Japanese companies, Honda had a 35 per cent rise in sales compared with the previous year, Colt a 55.6 per cent increase.

## Big rise forecast in four-wheel drives

BY OUR MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

THE UK market for four-wheel-drive passenger vehicles should rise by more than a third to about 13,000 in 1979 because of aggressive marketing by importers.

This was forecast yesterday by Mr. Christopher Tennant, managing director of TKN Vehicle Services (UK), a subsidiary of Tozer Kemsley and Milbourn (Holdings), the international finance and trading group.

His company began marketing Japanese Daihatsu and the U.S. Jeep four-wheel-drive vehicles in the UK late in 1977 and last year captured 15 per cent of the market.

In 1979 the company expects to control 20 per cent of the increased market, pushing its turnover up from £10m to

£14.8m. Last year it made a marginal profit, although it budgeted for a small loss. Profits should be "good" this year.

The company expects to sell 1,800 Daihatsus, costing from £4,314 to £5,149 after price increases totalling 17 per cent last year, and 1,080 Jeeps which, after an average 8 per cent price increase this week, cost from £5,199 to £10,999.

Mr. Tennant said nobody knew how great demand for four-wheel-drive vehicles in Britain might be. The country had been short of them for some years because of shortages of locally-produced Land-Rovers and Range Rovers.

In the peak year, 1973, about 17,000 four-wheel-drive vehicles were registered—all of them

from BL.

This year demand will be stimulated by the marketing efforts for Daihatsus and Jeeps by the importers of the Subaru four-wheel-drive cars and estates from Japan and by the introduction of the Niva from the Soviet Union which goes on sale probably towards the end of February with a UK allocation of 800.

And further interest will be generated by the European launch of Mercedes' first four-wheel-drive vehicle this spring.

Mr. Tennant said that the £250m, two-year programme by BL to double output of Land-Rovers and Range Rovers would have little impact in the UK as he expected 90 per cent of the increased production to go for export.

## Reserves of gas 'for 500m years'

By David Fishlock, Science Editor

A THEORY to account for the presence of natural gas in the earth, which suggests that the amounts remaining far exceed the quantities tapped so far, has been put forward by one of the world's leading cosmologists.

Professor Tommy Gold of Cornell University believes that the earth's crust is saturated with methane to a depth of perhaps 700 kilometres—enough to last the world at present consumption rates for 500m years.

Professor Gold said in a BBC radio interview last night that if his theory was correct, the places to search for large new natural gas deposits were among the oldest rocks in the world—such as the rift valleys of Africa and Australia.

He suggested that the Russians were already tapping one source in very old rock, in the region of Lake Baikal, an ancient sandstone deposit.

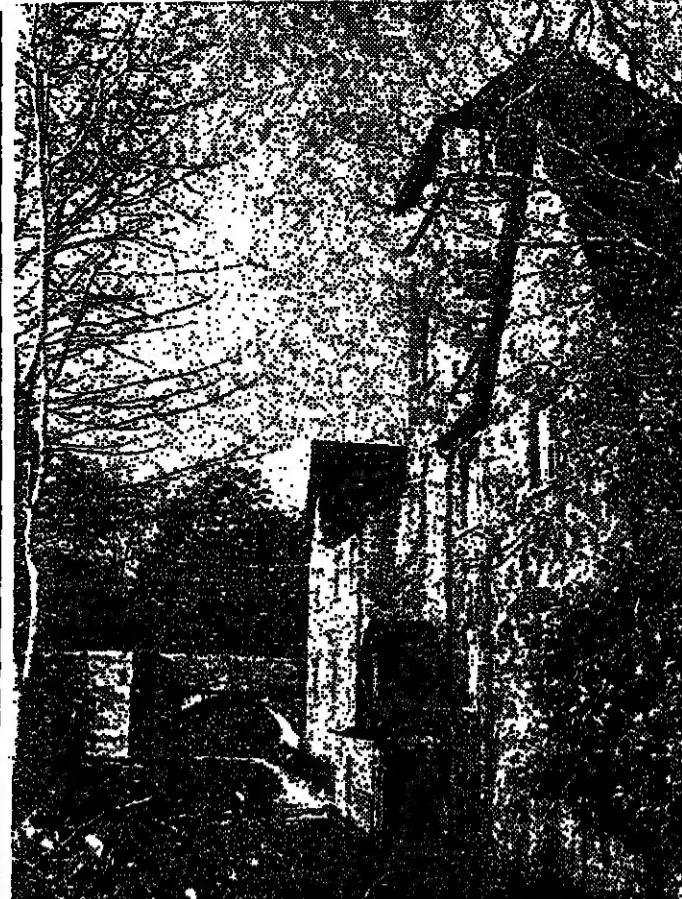
## Phenomena

Professor Gold believes that his theory of the origin of natural gas—that when the earth was formed huge quantities were trapped, or "fossilised," with it—accounts for many natural phenomena.

It accounts, for example, for the presence of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the abundance of carbonate rocks in the earth's crust. It also accounts for the flames often associated with earthquakes, and for a phenomenon known as "mud volcanoes," caused he believes by eruptions of high-pressure methane.

One mud volcano, which caught fire in the USSR, was reported to have thrown a flame well over a mile into the sky.

Mr. John Maddox, director of the Nuffield Foundation, interviewing Professor Gold, suggested that the most impressive feature of the new theory was the way it accounted for such a diversity of natural events. He proposed, moreover, that it could also provide the explanation of the forces that make the continents drift or move slowly relative to one another across the face of the earth.



The watermill at Bovey Tracey, Devon, restored by IIT and used as a micro-electronics components factory.

## When restoration work wasn't run of the mill

BY PAUL TAYLOR

INTERNATIONAL Telephone and Telegraph, the multinational communications group, yesterday won a Business and Industry Panel for the Environment 1978 Premier Award for its restoration of a Devon watermill (above) which is now used as a micro-electronics components factory.

The watermill in the village of Bovey Tracey is now used as a satellite factory for the company's European Components Group plant at Paignton and employs 121 people producing mica capacitors. Restoration work has included the rebuilding of the mill's waterwheel.

The IIT factory was one of four projects reflecting industry's concern for the environment which won the Premier Awards presented by the Duke of Gloucester in London yesterday.

Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail and president of the panel which was set up in 1975, said the awards showed

industry's growing awareness of its environmental responsibilities.

This year, about 80 projects were submitted to the panel which uses criteria such as planning and environmental improvements, the effects of improvements on companies' employees and the local community, and the way in which problems of saving energy and resources are resolved to decide upon the annual winners.

The other three projects winning the Premier Award were the South Nottinghamshire Coal Board's colliery tip reclamation project in conjunction with a local farmer at Bentinck Colliery where barley is now being grown on a working pitheap. Vickers for its new £45m Michell Bearings factory in Newcastle, and a project by Simons Design Services which transformed a derelict medieval house in Lincoln into a public house.

## Plastics processors make poor progress

By Sue Cameron

THE UK plastics processing industry is making poor progress towards the targets it has set itself under the Government's industrial strategy, according to a report from the plastics process sector working party.

The report, prepared for next month's meeting of the National Economic Development Council, shows that UK imports of plastics goods have risen from 9 per cent in 1975 to 10.5 per cent in the first half of last year. Yet the sector working party aims to halve imports of such plastics goods by 1980.

The industry is also aiming to double plastics goods exports by 1980 but the report shows that the UK's share of world exports rose by only 1.2 per cent between 1975 and 1977.

The report says the sector working party is "convinced" that the "continued credibility" of these highly ambitious targets has been questioned in the industry. But it adds that "any announcement of the death of their lingering credibility would, as yet, be premature."

The report says motor vehicles are a definite area of opportunity for UK plastics processors, but it criticises the Health and Safety Executive for being reluctant to amend regulations to allow plastic petrol tanks.

## New National Savings issue

THE 18th issue of National Savings Certificates is to go on sale on January 29.

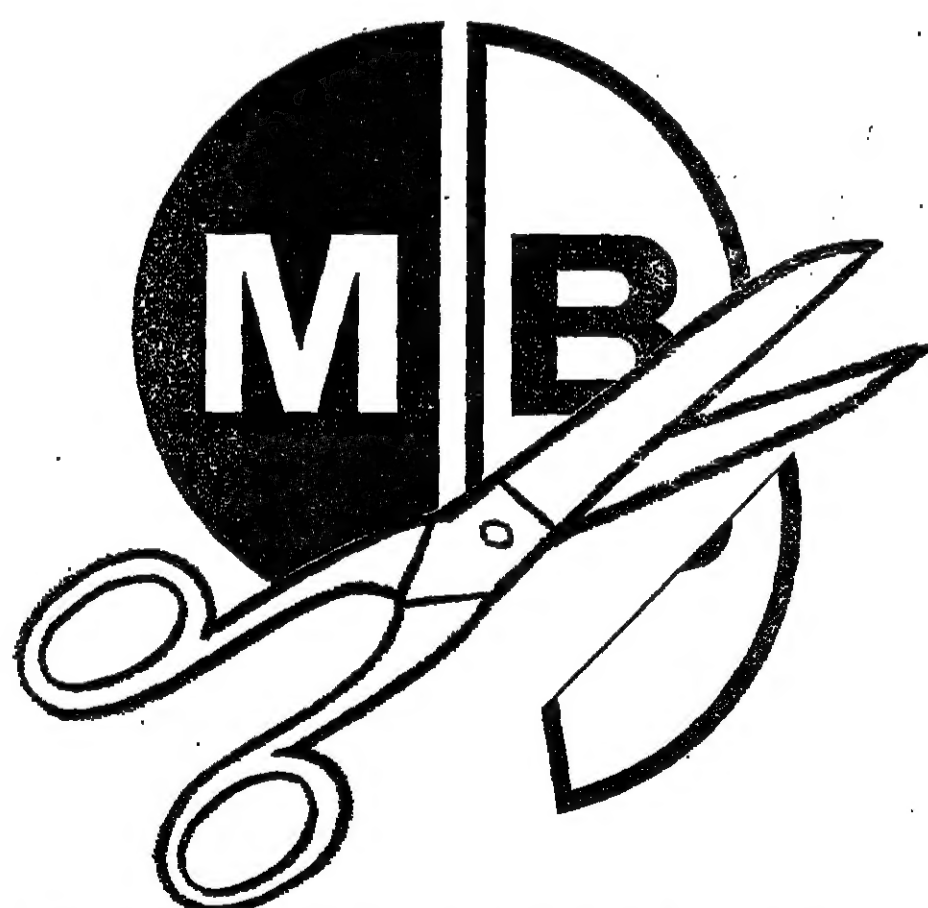
It replaces the 14th issue, sales of which will be suspended on January 27.

The 18th issue will provide a return of 8.45 per cent free of tax to investors who hold them for the full five-year term.

Investors can buy up to £1,500 in units of £10.

## Royal warrant for Fisons

FISONS Agrochemical Division has received a royal warrant as tradesman to the Queen.



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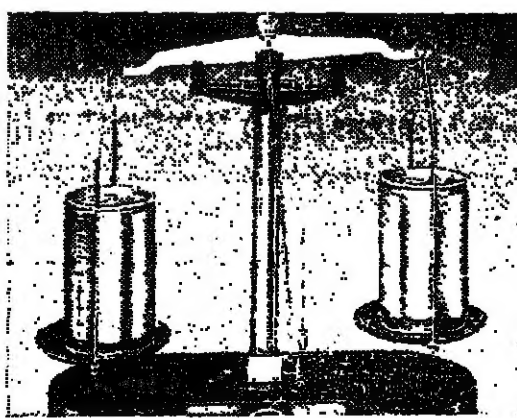
But there are often ways to make packaging itself more efficient; and when there are, you can be sure Metal Box are working on them.

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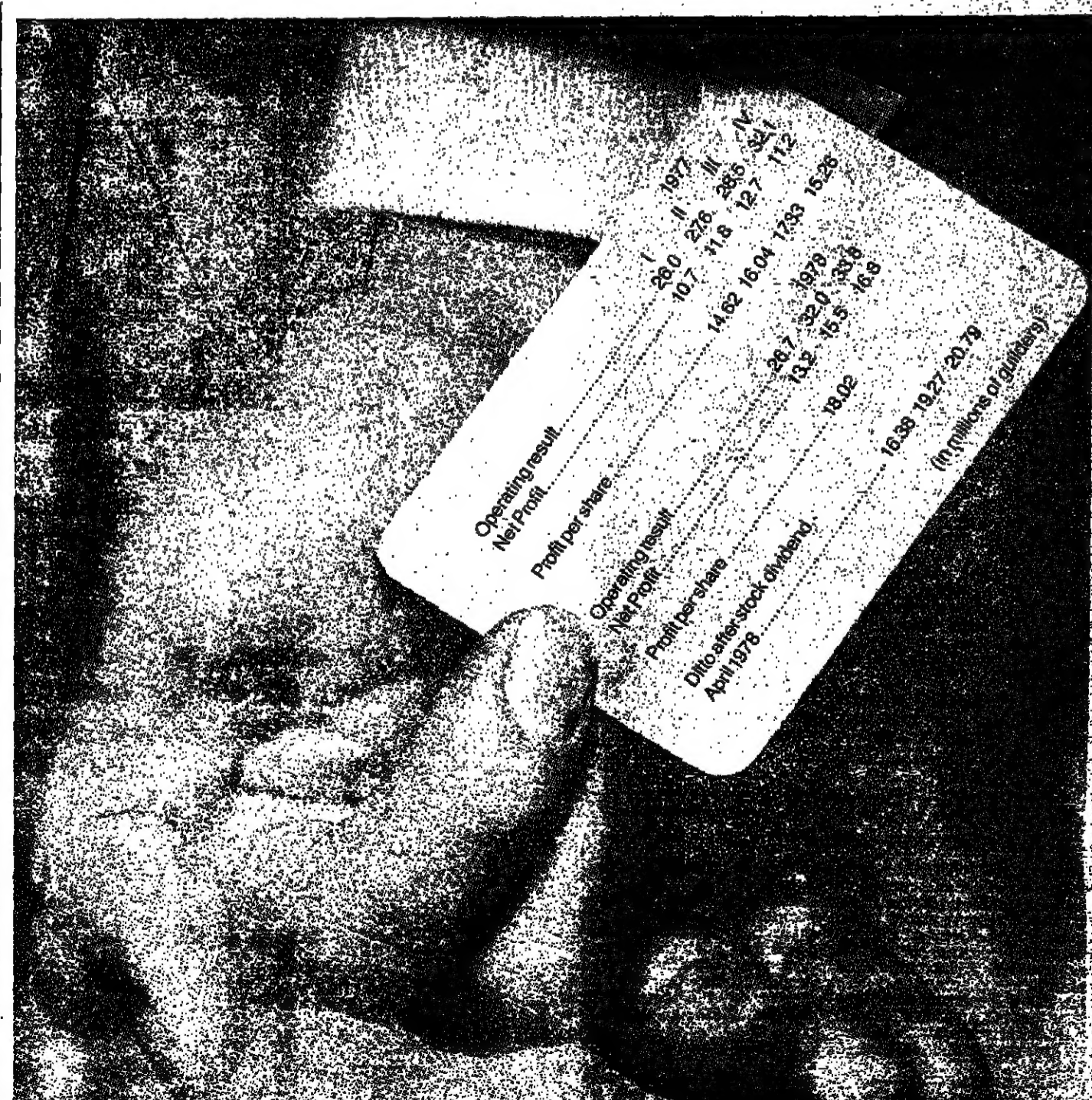
The new two-piece can.



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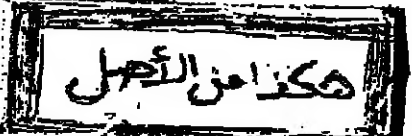
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## Food experts to join Allied Breweries board

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

TWO TOP figures in the UK food industry are to join Allied Breweries as non-executive directors. The move is announced just three months after Allied acquired the ailing Lyons food group in a £60m deal.

Sir Alex. Alexander, the retiring chairman of the Imperial Group's food division and Sir Hector Loring, chairman of United Biscuits, will join the Allied board at the end of March. Sir Hector retires soon as chairman of the Food and Drinks Industries Council.

The appointments, particularly that of Sir Alex, are seen as the first significant moves to strengthen Allied's newly-acquired Lyons food interests.

## ICI adapts profit scheme to gain tax relief

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

ICI HAS become one of the first big companies to adapt its employee share ownership scheme to take advantage of the new tax relief available under the Finance Act.

The tax relief is available from this April and the Inland Revenue is now vetting individual companies' plans. Very few schemes have yet been approved although there are about 50 under scrutiny.

ICI's amended scheme has been given broad approval by the Inland Revenue and employees are being told this week that they can opt next month for shares carrying tax advantages.

The Finance Act's tax concessions apply to share options up to £500 a year for all employees. The shares are held by trustees and the tax advantage depends on the time they are held. In general after five years 50 per cent of income tax is waived, after seven years 75 per cent is waived, and after 10 years no tax is paid.

The concessions were included in the Act as a result of Liberal Party pressure on the Government in last year's Lib-Lab pact. They are expected to lead to a gradual extension of employee share ownership in the UK where there have been few schemes in the past.

ICI's profit-sharing scheme is one of the oldest and best known in British industry. It was introduced in 1963 and all employees who qualify are issued with shares. Following

## Talks on £24m BL aluminium works

BY ROY HODSON

A BRITISH company and a foreign company are now negotiating with BL (formerly British Leyland) Components which is seeking partners for a £24m, Government-backed, aluminium foundry project in Leeds.

Previous talks between BL Components and the two largest aluminium foundries in Britain—Birmid Qualeast and Associated Engineering—were inconclusive. But the further participation in the talks of at least one of those companies is not ruled out.

BL Components is determined to go ahead with the foundry, to produce aluminium engine blocks and cylinder heads, whether or not it secures support from the private sector aluminium foundry industry.

The BL management is convinced that the group's Austin and Morris mass-production car divisions need the support of a big-engine aluminium foundry for the 1980s. Prices quoted by private sector foundries are too high for the work to be placed outside the group, BL contends.

A comparative study carried out by BL has shown to the satisfaction of the board that the proposed Leeds foundry—which has the blessing of the Little Neddy foundries committee—should be capable of making engine castings at below the prices being presently paid by BL's major competitors.

The aluminium foundry industry is reacting strongly to BL plans for a new foundry. The Light Metal Founders' Association claims its members have been presented with a fait accompli by BL.

Foundry companies are complaining to the Government and the National Enterprise Board that they would be forced to accept BL Components' engine castings orders more cheaply and efficiently than a BL-owned foundry.

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## Casting industry has its doubts

BY ROY HODSON

BEHIND THE BL Components disclosure of plans to build a £24m aluminium foundry in Leeds to make engine castings lies a fundamental disagreement between BL and the aluminium castings industry on the growing use of the metal in car production.

The British car industry is following rather belatedly the example of the European and Japanese car makers by switching to aluminium engine blocks and cylinder heads for mass market models.

Strength for strength, the metal is half the weight of iron or steel. It offers an attractive route forward for car designers instructed to produce new models with lighter all-up weight and better fuel economy.

BL Components is prepared to "go it alone" with the new Leeds foundry after failing at the first attempt to arrange a partnership project with two of the biggest companies in the private sector aluminium foundry business.

They are Birmid Qualeast and Associated Engineering's subsidiary company Aeroplan and Muller.

Meanwhile, new talks are being held between BL Components and possible partners among the foundry companies.

While Henry Ford I liked to keep his production under his own roof the British car industry has developed a high degree of reliance upon component suppliers.

Even Ford at Dagenham, which for many years used to produce its own iron for engines from a Thameside blast

chairman, indicated last year that discussions with the Government were under way.

While details of the proposed agreement have still to be settled, it is understood that original suggestions of a "Concorde Corporation" that would take over the aircraft and lease them to British Airways have been substantially modified.

What is now being considered is a simpler refinancing deal which would not only remove from the airline the burden of depreciation charges, but also enable it to take over the two unsold Concorde of the UK assembly line.

What to do with these aircraft has been a problem facing the Government for some time. One has flown already, and is kept on a "care-and-maintenance" basis at Filton, near

Bristol. The other is due to fly this spring.

With seven Concorde at its disposal, British Airways would need to expand its leasing activities, along the lines of that with Braniff Airways of the U.S., which enables Concorde subsonic flights from Washington to Dallas-Fort Worth in Texas to start this Friday.

British Airways is holding talks with other airlines in the U.S., the Middle East and Africa, and hopes that similar deals to the Braniff arrangement will be settled this year.

It also hopes that the Braniff deal will lead to a substantial increase not only in annual utilisation of the aircraft in terms of hours flown, but also of interest from other U.S. airlines, such as Pan American.

In the meantime, the aircraft was given its formal U.S. Certificate of Airworthiness by the Federal Aviation Administration, in London and Paris, clearing the way for this Friday's start to the joint services with Braniff between Washington and Texas.

It was disclosed yesterday that British Aerospace, spending its own money, has developed a new air intake for the Concorde's engines that will improve performance by cutting fuel consumption by up to 1,000 kilograms on a long-haul flight.

This means that Concorde can fly further for the same fuel load. It is expected to revolutionise the economics of the Concorde service between Bahrain and Singapore, adding perhaps as many as 35 passengers to the permitted load out of Singapore at the hottest time of year.

## NEWS ANALYSIS—BL FOUNDRY PLAN

BL Components is hoping still to attract partners from the private sector.

The aluminium foundry industry feels slighted by BL's selective approach to prospective partners, and the decision to expand without outside help if necessary.

"We were presented with a fait accompli," said Mr. Peter Adams, secretary of the Light Metal Founders' Association. The association represents 80 per cent of the total British output of 120,000 tonnes a year of aluminium castings from about 400 foundries.

At the heart of the matter is whether car producers, as they re-vamp to adopt new production methods and materials, are going to integrate vertically to keep as many of the new techniques as possible under their own control.

Reliance

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furnace, now buys-in castings from foundries.

But the growing use of aluminium castings for major components such as engine blocks, heads, and gearbox castings, is giving car makers a new opportunity to reassess control of basic production areas.

Aluminium foundries are now highly automated. Using the latest injection systems car companies are able to manufacture castings for themselves without unreasonably high capital outlay.

The aluminium foundries believe they have a strong case for handling BL's extra aluminium castings needs. The industry is working at only about 70 per cent capacity—largely due to declining car output in Britain.

Five years ago (when cars were using, on average, less aluminium than today's models) the castings industry had its peak year with sales totalling 145,000 tonnes.

The industry is hungry for work. The companies believe they are better equipped in both techniques and skills to handle new engine castings than BL can hope to do.

Why have the foundry companies so far not taken up BL's partnership offer? The straight answer is that the foundries

lack confidence in BL's Components' manufacturing plans and in the future of BL Cars.

Turnover

They argue that BL's future car output is a highly debatable figure and a fixed investment on a big foundry to serve the company is difficult to justify.

Secondly, the newly-proposed Leeds foundry will have a castings capacity of 13,000 tonnes a year. That will represent a turnover of about £22m a year at present prices. The foundries say that such a level of turnover is too low on a £25m investment.

BL counters that it will continue to follow its traditional policy of making a large amount of its castings—both iron and aluminium—in its own plants because that is the cheapest and most efficient way of doing things.

It estimates that the proportion of aluminium engine castings it takes from "in house" plants will rise from the present 50 per cent of requirements to about 60 per cent by 1987.

It also foresees an export potential from its new aluminium castings plant. The private sector foundries are

sceptical, pointing out that freight costs prohibit the transport of aluminium castings for sale at great distances from the manufacturing point.

The already spirited argument between BL and aluminium foundries is being further fuelled by tranches of public money.

The BL plant at Leeds is, to all intents and purposes a Government investment. But the Government has also agreed to help in the modernisation of the non-ferrous foundry industry by making a £28m contribution towards new private sector investments totalling more than £100m.

A proportion of that assistance will be for the improvement of aluminium casting facilities. It is not possible to say exactly how much, because many non-ferrous foundries handle a range of metals, such as aluminium, zinc, brass and bronze.

The aluminium foundries are based in the Midlands. The companies there feel that they will not be justified in proceeding with the new investment programme in full, as agreed with the Government, if BL withdraws a proportion of its work to the new Leeds foundry.

## New deal likely on Concordes

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS and the Government are believed close to an agreement on refinancing the fleet of Concorde, relieving the airline of the heavy burden of annual depreciation charges.

The corporation has five Concorde in service, bought for about £150m. Its last annual report showed that in 1977-78 Concorde lost £17m, of which about £15m was due to depreciation, with only £2m lost on direct operations.

It is understood that subsequently, with growth of business on the North Atlantic, the airline has made direct operating profits with Concorde, though because of depreciation charges the overall result is a loss.

British Airways, while praising Concorde, has never made any secret of its desire to be rid of the depreciation charges, and Sir Frank McAdzean, the

chairman, indicated last year that discussions with the Government were under way.

While details of the proposed agreement have still to be settled, it is understood that original suggestions of a "Concorde Corporation" that would take over the aircraft and lease them to British Airways have been substantially modified.

What is now being considered is a simpler refinancing deal which would not only remove from the airline the burden of depreciation charges, but also enable it to take over the two unsold Concorde of the UK assembly line.

What to do with these aircraft has been a problem facing the Government for some time. One has flown already, and is kept on a "care-and-maintenance" basis at Filton, near

Bristol. The other is due to fly this spring.

With seven Concorde at its disposal, British Airways would need to expand its leasing activities, along the lines of that with Braniff Airways of the U.S., which enables Concorde subsonic flights from Washington to Dallas-Fort Worth in Texas to start this Friday.

British Airways is holding talks with other airlines in the U.S., the Middle East and Africa, and hopes that similar deals to the Braniff arrangement will be settled this year.

It also hopes that the Braniff deal will lead to a substantial increase not only in annual utilisation of the aircraft in terms of hours flown, but also of interest from other U.S. airlines, such as Pan American.

In the meantime, the aircraft was given its formal U.S. Certificate of Airworthiness by the Federal Aviation Administration, in London and Paris, clearing the way for this Friday's start to the joint services with Braniff between Washington and Texas.

It was disclosed yesterday that British Aerospace, spending its own money, has developed a new air intake for the Concorde's engines that will improve performance by cutting fuel consumption by up to 1,000 kilograms on a long-haul flight.

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## Iran crisis shows vital need for coal-Benn

By Robin Reeves, Welsh Correspondent

EVENTS in Iran underline the importance of fostering Britain's coal industry. Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Energy Secretary, said in Cardiff yesterday.

He was speaking before the second series of meetings of Coal Industry Tripartite Group on the future shape of the South Wales coal industry.

The study is due to be completed by the middle of next month, and there is widespread concern in South Wales that it could lead to a round of pit closures.

Earlier this week, Sir Derek Ezra, the National Coal Board chairman, confirmed the South Wales coalfield is likely to lose about £50m.

The latest accounts showed an increased loss of £3m on 1977-78 in spite of a 4 per cent production increase and an 8.8 per cent rise in output per man.

South Wales has not shown an operating profit since 1970, though since the 1974 Coal Plan, the area has received £90m in major investment schemes.

Mr. Benn stressed that, whatever the conclusions of the tripartite study, there was no question of repeating the mass pit closures programme carried out in the 1960s.

He hinted that further marketing subsidies could be eventually in the offing. The £17m Government grant to increase the coal burn in power stations this winter, for instance, £50m interest charges on coal stocks and another £50m in imports.

● The European Coal and Steel Community has made grants worth £62m to assist British coal and steel industry workers. Of this, £4.67m will go to 3,787 miners whose pits were closed last year.

There was a marked improvement at the retail/wholesale end of the clothing and furniture trades, where failure dropped by 37 per cent and 46 per cent respectively.

The fourth quarter of 1978 saw the lowest number of failures in the year—308—with 359 in the third quarter, 340 in the second and 438 in the first quarter. The 1978 total is the lowest since 1969 when this series of statistics was first started.

The only exception to the general trend throughout was engineering and metals where 47 failures were notified in the final quarter compared with 45 in the previous quarter.

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## Labour group suggests looser pay policy plan

A LOOSER form of pay policy with the Price Commission acting to discourage excessive wage increases in private and nationalised industries, is proposed by the Manifesto Group, representing the moderate wing of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

The document, *The Future of Counter-Inflation Policy*, was published yesterday. It has been sent to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Labour's National Executive and the TUC General Council.

The hope is that it will form part of Labour's manifesto in this year's general election, or at least influence its contents.

It suggests annual discussions between the Government, unions, employers and consumer organisations before the Budget.

They would not decide on a pay limit but would agree what the desirable and achievable rate of inflation should be during the following wage negotiations.

The proposal is not unlike ideas being mooted in the Conservative Party, and resembles the German system.

Mr. Ian Wrigglesworth (Tees-side, Thornaby), secretary of the group, and Mr. John Cartwright (Woolwich, East), chairman, were at pains yesterday to emphasise the distinction between their policy and the Opposition's.

They consider that the Tories would mainly rely on the operation of free market forces and that that would result in a "free for all" and sterner industrial relations.

The document argues that the Left wing of the Labour Party,

is forcing the Government to abandon its five per cent pay policy, has shown that its views on the issue are no different from the Conservatives.

Nevertheless, implicit in the Manifesto policy is the eventual reliance on market forces to restrain wages. It calls on the Government to adhere to clear monetary guidelines, to adopt a fiscal policy compatible with private industry's demand for finance, to maintain the value of sterling and to enforce cash limits in the public sector.

Companies making excessive awards should not be allowed to plead reduced profits as a reason for price increases.

In the non-trading public sector it suggests synchronising rates for pay awards and the settlement of relatives through the establishment of a TUC Public Services Committee.

The document emphasises the need for the Government and TUC to restore an understanding on pay before the general election. "The party cannot go on burying its head in the sand, pretending there is no problem."

film expansion

INTERNATIONAL System Buildings of Wyllie, Blackwood, Gwent, yesterday announced a £1m expansion programme aimed at establishing its Reddi Kabin mobile units as market leaders. Three production lines will come into operation at Wyllie and the management team is being expanded.

content of the new report because of the legal problems implicit in the contents. It is probable that the Stock Exchange will make no further public disclosure of the contents for at least a fortnight.

The first report, which led to the resignation of the investment director of the Piccadilly Unit Trust Group, involved alleged price manipulation achieved by trading unmarketable securities in unmarketable amounts by means of "put-

## Toothpaste 'rivalry' cuts prices

By David Churchill, Consumer Affairs Correspondent

THE PRICE Commission yesterday gave a clean bill of health to the toothpaste market which is described as "highly competitive" and which has led to a reduction in real prices in recent years.

But the commission mildly rebuked the toothpaste manufacturers for their heavy advertising expenditure as well as their practice of recommending retail prices.

The toothpaste market is dominated by four large companies—Beecham Proprietary, Elida Gibbs, Colgate Palmolive, and Procter and Gamble. The commission said that these companies compete mainly on price—through offering special temporary price reductions—as well as heavy advertising.

Advertising expenditure as a proportion of total sales represented just over 17 per cent for toothpaste, compared with almost 8 per cent for razor blades, and just over 2 per cent for detergents.

"We do not suggest that the level of toothpaste advertising should be limited but we would view any future increase in advertising with concern, especially if it became a factor in any proposed price increase," the commission said.

It pointed out that the real level of expenditure on toothpaste advertising had declined by about 15 per cent from 1973 to 1977. This followed a rise in advertising costs as well as a switch to more price competition.

The commission found that for any given tube size there was a wide spread in the retail price of toothpaste between different outlets. Independent shops largely sold at or around the recommended retail price, while the big multiples sold at minimum prices taking a low retail margin but achieving a high turnover.

Price Commission Sectoral Examination Report No. 12: Prices, Costs and Margins in the production and distribution of toothpaste, HC 135, SO Price £1.

throughs"—deals where both seller and buyer are lined up in advance.

It is understood that the new report involves other securities beyond the nine mentioned in the first reports. But while the alleged malpractices are said to be linked to those shown up earlier, they are of a different nature.

No wide abuse has been revealed, apparently. The activities involve what a Stock Exchange official described as a

## Euro-Tories issue call for trouble-spot troops

BY ELINOR GOODMAN, LOBBY STAFF

MEMBERS OF THE EEC should co-operate in setting up a special emergency brigade of troops which could be sent to the world's trouble spots, says a policy statement published yesterday by a group of Conservative pro-Europeans. The idea was one of a number for increasing collaboration on defence between the Nine.

It was included in a booklet which the Conservative Group for Europe hopes will become official Tory policy for the European elections on June 7. In it, the group also suggested ways of speeding up the community's decision-making and improving its credibility.

The group argued that unless the EEC was given more responsibility for policy and defence, it would be reduced to no more than a trading club. It was inconceivable that a community which was developing common



The following Tombstone announcements were published in the Financial Times during December

## BONDS

Publication date	Publication date	Publication date
5/12/78	12/12/78	21/12/78
Göteborgs	Republique de Panama	Federative Republic of Brazil
US\$25,000,000	Kuwaiti Dinars 6,000,000	DM 150,000,000
Floating Rate Capital Notes	8% Bonds due 1990	71% Deutsche Mark Bearer
Due 1988	Kuwait International Investment	Bonds of 1979/1987
S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. and others	Co. s.a.k. and others	Deutsche Bank and others
6/12/78	14/12/78	21/12/78
Bahattin Goren Co.	Oesterreichische	New Zealand
US\$4,500,000	Kontrollbank	DM 200,000,000
Guarantee Facility for Kirkuk/	Aktienkreditgesellschaft	84% Bearer Bonds of 1979/1987
Adhaim Irrigation Project	DM 100,000,000	Commerzbank and others
Allied Bank Int. and others	84% Deutsche Mark Bearer	
Norges Kommunalbank	Bonds of 1978/1985	
6/12/78	14/12/78	22/12/78
Luxembourg Tranche 500,000,000	Deutsche Bank and others	Banque Nationale
8% Bonds due 1986		d'Algérie
Kreditbank S.A.	Sonatrach	US\$25,000,000
Luxembourg Tranche 500,000,000	US\$140,000,000	Floating Rate Notes 1985
8% Bonds due 1986	Guaranteed Bonds due 1992	The Nomura Securities Co. Ltd. and others
Kabushiki Kaisha	Credit Lyonnais and others	
6/12/78	14/12/78	22/12/78
Dif 50,000,000	Occidental	European Investment
8 1/2% Bonds due 1983	International Finance N.V.	Bank
Westdeutsche Landesbank	DM 180,000,000	AS 400,000,000
Girozentrale and others	5 1/2% Bonds due 1990	Austrian Schilling Bearer
Sundstallbank	US\$80,000,000	Bonds 1978/86
6/12/78	19/12/78	22/12/78
Floating Rate Capital Notes	European Coal and	Creditanstalt-Bankverein and others
Due 1985	Steel Community	
Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd. and others	US\$40,000,000	Commonwealth of
United Mizrahi	Notes due 15th December 1990	Australia
International Investments N.V.	Daiwa Europe N.V. and others	Y50,000,000,000
US\$10,000,000	Sharp Corp.	Japanese Yen Bonds—Series
Floating Rate Notes Due 1983	DM 150,000,000	No. 3 (1978)
Private Placement	31% Convertible Bonds due 1988	Y30,000,000,000 Five Year 5.6%
Cresfin S.A. Zurich	Westdeutsche Landesbank	Bonds due 1983
7/12/78	Girozentrale and others	Y20,000,000,000 Ten Year 6.5%
Norsk Byrdo A.S.		Bonds due 1983
US\$50,000,000		The Nomura Securities Co. Ltd. and others
9 1/2% Bonds 1984		
Hambros Bank Ltd. and others		
8/12/78		
Sveriges		
Investingsbank Aktiefond		
9 1/2% Bonds due 1985		
Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd. and others		
General Motors		
11/12/78		
Acceptance Corporation		
9% Notes due 1984		
Morgan Stanley & Co. Inc. and others		
Compagnie Nationale		
11/12/78		
Algerienne de Navigation		
Kuwaiti Dinars 10,000,000		
8 1/2% Guaranteed Bonds due 1990		
Kuwait Foreign Trading		
Contracting & Investment Co. (S.A.K.) and others		

## LOANS

Publication date	Publication date	Publication date
5/12/78	11/12/78	15/12/78
The Hashemite	Udrusena Beogradsk	Kansas City Power & Light Co.
Kingdom of Jordan	Banka Vojvodjanska	US\$50,000,000
US\$10,000,000	Banka-Udrusena Banka	Term Loan
Projected Related Medium	US\$1,000,000	Merrill Lynch International
Term Loan	9 year loan	Bank Ltd.
Arab African International	Loeb Rhoades, Horblower Int. Ltd. and others	Qatar Petrochemical
Bank-Calm and others	Empresa Nacional de	Co. S.A.O.
6/12/78	12/12/78	15/12/78
Andelsbanken	Electricidad S.A.	US\$175,000,000
Danabank	US\$25,000,000	Term Credit Facility
US\$18,000,000	Ten year floating rate loan	Lloyds Bank International Ltd. and others
Medium Term Loan	Banque Bruxelles Lambert and Banque Louis-Dreyfus	18/12/78
London & Continental Bankers Ltd. and others	British Gas Corp.	13/12/78
6/12/78	US\$250,000,000	10 year Stand-by Credit facility for Commercial Paper
Aerolineas Argentinas	Barclays Bank International Ltd. and others	
US\$180,000,000		
Medium-Term Financing		
US\$15,000,000		
Floating Rate		
US\$4,000,000		
Fixed Rate		
Morgan Guaranty Trust Company		
6/12/78		
Aerian S.A. de C.V.		
US\$7,500,000		
Medium Term Loan		
Libra Bank Ltd. and others		
6/12/78		
Sonatrach		
US\$18,000,000		
Medium Term Credit Facility		
Banco do Comercio e Industria de Sao Paulo S.A. and others		
7/12/78		
Banco Central del		
Uruguay		
US\$8,000,000		
Medium Term Credit		
Bank America Int. Group and The Bank of Nova Scotia Group		
7/12/78		
Republic of Costa Rica		
US\$70,000,000		
Banco Central de Costa Rica		
US\$10,000,000		
Bank America Int. Group and others		
7/12/78		
A/S Eksportfinans		
US\$85,000,000		
Medium Term Loan		
Dresdner Bank		
US\$10,000,000		
Merrill Lynch Int. & Co. and others		
7/12/78		
The Federal Republic of Nigeria		
US\$750,000,000		
5 year Multicurrency Loan		
US\$75,000,000		
Medium Term Loan		
Handelsbank		
US\$10,000,000		
Aktiengesellschaft and others		
Investition		
US\$10,000,000		
Commercial Bank-Osnovna		
US\$7,500,000		
7 year Loan		
Marine Midland Bank		
US\$10,000,000		
Banco Nacional de		
Desarrollo		
US\$40,000,000		
Complementary Loan Financing		
Marine Midland Bank and others		
8/12/78		
Finanzierungsanstalt		
US\$10,000,000		
Medium Term Loan		
Commerzbank Int. and others		
8/12/78		
Dansk		
Eksportfinansieringsfond		
US\$10,000,000		
Medium Term Loan		
Commerzbank Int. and others		

## OTHERS

Publication date	Publication date	Publication date
2/12/78	12/12/78	21/12/78
Royal Bos Kalls	American Airlines Inc.	The Southland Corp.
Westminster Group N.V.	US\$1,774,000	US\$50,000,000
354,893 registered shares	US\$1,000,000 Equipment Trust	9 1/2% Sinking Fund Debentures
AMRO Bank and others	Certificates due June 1, 1989	due December 15, 2003
6/12/78	12/12/78	21/12/78
Dana Corporation	US\$90,774,000 Equipment Trst.	Goldman Sachs & Co. and others
US\$100,000,000	Certs. due June 1, 1994	E.B.E.S.
5 1/2% Debts. due 2008	Bankers Trust Co.	US\$2,500,000,000
Merrill Lynch White Weld	Sears, Roebuck and Co.	US\$2,500,000,000
Capital Markets Group and others	US\$2,500,000,000	US\$2,500,000,000
6/12/78	12/12/78	21/12/78
Province of Ontario	Five year Commitment to	US\$2,500,000,000
US\$250,000,000	Purchase Customer Accounts	US\$2,500,000,000
30 year 8 1/2% Debts. due 2008	Receivable	US\$2,500,000,000
Salomon Brothers and others	Continental Illinois Corp. and others	US\$2,500,000,000
11/12/78	12/12/78	21/12/78
Bank of Baroda	The Hongkong Land	US\$2,500,000,000
US\$20,000,000	US\$2,500,000,000	US\$2,500,000,000
Floating Rate Certificates of	HKS\$600,387,150	US\$2,500,000,000
Deposit due 1981	US\$2,500,000,000	US\$2,500,000,000
Citicorp Int. Group and others	US\$2,500,000,000	US\$2,500,000,000

## UK NEWS — LABOUR

## TRANSPORT DRIVERS' STRIKE PARALYSES BRITISH INDUSTRIES

## Big lay-offs expected soon

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

HUNDREDS OF thousands of workers throughout Britain are expected to be laid off within the next week or so as the lorry drivers' strike intensifies. Few industries have escaped severe shortages of raw materials and difficulties in dispatching finished products.

The effects, although limited in the South-west, have been worse in the North-west, where picketing has intensified. They follow a week's disruption caused by the petrol tanker drivers' strike at depots in Manchester and Merseyside. Textile employers there said that up to 30,000 workers will be laid off next week.

Industry in the West Midlands might halt soon, with up to 75,000 workers idle, the Confederation of British Industry says. In Northern Ireland the CBI said that it knew of at least 10,000 lay-offs and the number is growing.

## Condemned

The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry estimates that if the dispute continues, 100,000 workers might be laid off there by the end of this week. Scotland also faces thousands of lay-offs. Contingency plans are being made to shut companies if the supply of raw materials becomes more difficult.

Sir John Methven, CBI director-general, condemned the unofficial action and the blockades by strike pickets at ports and outside factories. He said that the Transport and General Workers' Union was not taking

responsible action and should get members back to work. Imperial Chemicals Industries, severely affected, said that it would "have to consider the position" of some of its 90,000 UK employees if the strike continues after this week. Such an event would accelerate plant closures.

ICI estimated that by the end of this week, half its home and export sales would have been lost through the strike. It fears the permanent loss of some European markets.

Supplies held up at ports and depots are also hampering Britain's 13m small companies operating with low raw material stocks and without their own lorries.

Mr. Brian Kingham, chairman of the Association of Independent Businesses, said: "If the current disputes are prolonged and if only one small firm in a thousand goes out of business as a result, that means 1,300 jobs could soon be making thousands of workers unemployed."

The picture nationally was: London and South-East: Big employers, including the food, paper, raw material and metal working industries are worried about supplies.

Ford said that components deliveries had been disrupted but the factories were maintaining production "and looking at the situation on a day-to-day basis."

Midlands—Mr. Reg Parkes, CBI regional chairman, said that reports from member companies suggested that the effects of the disputes might increase quickly within 48 hours. Raw materials

and oil were short and finished goods unable to be dispatched were building up. The Midlands, with its heavy concentration of engineering and metal industries, has been particularly affected by steel.

MR. WILLIAM WHITE-LAW, Tory deputy leader, said yesterday that the Government should have declared a state of emergency to meet the strike crisis—because the life of the community was threatened. He said that the Government did not appear to be in control of events.

Mr. Eileen Griffiths, Tory MP for Bury St. Edmunds, said that the strike could cripple the farming industry and lead to food shortages and higher prices.

shortages caused by picketing at British Steel Corporation plants. CBI companies were worried about exports. Some will soon face penalty clauses.

S. Wales and S.W. England—All UK tinplate production is likely to halt unless the strike is settled by the week-end.

Picketing at the British Steel Corporation's tinplate works at Ebbw Vale, Trostre and Velindre has prevented finished supplies from leaving the works.

Elsewhere in the Corporation's Welsh division, picketing has not yet affected output. Strikers are exempting goods carried in companies' own vehicles.

## Food industry grinds to a halt

BY CHRISTOPHER PARKES

SUPPLIES of sugar to the British food industry have virtually dried up, the Food Manufacturers' Federation said last night. The soft drinks industry, for example, is expected to close down tomorrow because of the shortage of sugar, carbon dioxide and bottles. "They've got the water, but that's about all," a spokesman said.

The cake and biscuit industry continued to grind to a halt as the shortages, particularly of edible fat and oil, affected more factories.

The British Sugar Corporation, which refines UK-grown sugar beet, said its deliveries had been cut by 50 per cent. Tate and Lyle, the imported cane sugar processor, was concentrating on supplying London customers.

On Merseyside, the company was delivering only to hospitals and industrial chemists. A leading jam company was said to have enough stocks for only one or two days.

Many shoppers could not buy salt and there were also scattered reports of local shortages of frozen poultry and fresh fish. The big frozen food companies were reported to be snapping up landings of cod and haddock to keep their production lines moving.

But our Grimshy correspondent reports that fleets of small vans and pick-ups have been beating the strike and taking supplies of fish to markets inland.

The pet food industry is also in danger of closing down soon because of a shortage of cans and offal.

The Price Commission's latest reports on fresh food prices shows that in the three months to November the price index fell 1.7 per cent. This was due almost entirely to lower

apple prices, but meat prices stayed unchanged for the first time since spring, 1977.

PETROL—Motorists found it marginally easier to obtain petrol yesterday, but there were still long queues at many garages.

The Royal Automobile Club said last night that demand for petrol had eased following the decision of tanker drivers and depot workers at Shell and Esso to accept pay offers—but Merseyside, Manchester and North London were still badly hit.

BUSES—Companies throughout the country continued to operate reduced services yesterday.

Peak-hour services were being maintained in England and Wales, but some evening services were withdrawn. There were also reduced daytime off-peak services.

SCHOOLS—Throughout the country they continued to be

badly affected yesterday by the shortage of heating oil caused by the tanker drivers' dispute. Many more have closed since Monday and in the worst hit areas over one-third were shut.

In Strathclyde, 460 schools and colleges closed, affecting over 200,000 students and in Manchester, 88 of the 160 schools closed, affecting about 80,000 children. In Sheffield, 65 of 105 oil-heated schools were shut, affecting almost 30,000 pupils. Over 300 schools have closed in Ulster.

SHOPS—Big supermarkets reported some easing of demand for groceries from housewives yesterday following the panic buying at the week-end. Both J. Sainsbury and Tesco, which between them have over a quarter of the grocery market, were able to restock their shelves over the week-end which means most stores have sufficient goods to meet demand.

Swansea port was cut off from lorry traffic, but steel and iron ore kept moving by rail.

Geest banana boats unloaded at Barry, but the boats may be diverted if the strike continues. Roll-on, roll-off ferries have also suffered. North Sea Ferries suspended its Northland and Norstar daily service from Hull to Rotterdam. The ships can carry up to 120 vehicles but the strike has cut loads to un-economic levels.

At Glasgow, Merseyside trade with Northern Ireland was at a standstill although ships were unloaded.

The Port of London, which handled 14 per cent of Britain's port trade by value last year, handled ships normally. Space remained for exports where those were allowed through the strong pickets at Tilbury.

At Southampton, BL cars for export have been turned away, but foreign car imports have continued.

## Provincial Press talks break down over pickets

BY ALAN PIKE, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

PEACE TALKS in the five-week-long provincial journalists' strike broke down yesterday in a dispute with the National Union of Journalists over the effects of picket action.

A pay settlement totalling 14.5 per cent was reached, however, with the non-striking Institute of Journalists.

The NUJ and the Newspaper Society, which represents the provincial employers, met to discuss a new pay offer for several hours on Monday night and agreed to resume negotiations yesterday.

However, the society—which had sought NUJ assurances that pickets would be reduced as a condition for opening negotiations—withdrawn from yesterday's session because it believed excessive picketing was still in

progress. The NUJ responded by accusing the employers' organisation of sabotaging the peace talks. "The society must be desperate not to negotiate with us," said Mr. Ken Ashton, general secretary. "In the space of 24 hours we made considerable progress in scaling down picketing as a gesture to restart talks."

Mr. Ashton claimed that one of two pickets used about which the employers had complained proved to be a lorry drivers' picket.

Union leaders left Monday night's talks having rejected an offer improved by 0.45 per cent to 13.5 per cent. Talks were to have been resumed last night, however.

Last night's settlement with the Institute of Journalists provided for a 14.5 per cent increase on the editorial wages bill compared with an original 9 per cent at the start of negotiations. This would increase provincial journalists pay by between £9.40 a week and £14.43. The largest group of qualified journalists after five years would receive an average 18.5 per cent increase on basic rates to £83 a week.

Mr. Bob Farmer, general secretary of the IJF said that the agreement also provided for further local negotiations.

Mr. Duke Hussey, chief executive and managing director of Times Newspapers, yesterday attacked NATSOPA, one of the biggest print unions, for refusing to allow secret ballots among its ancillary trades members.

## Print union merger move may widen split—or herald unity

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER, LABOUR EDITOR

PRINT UNION members finish voting this week on a merger whose success or failure will have important implications for newspapers, general printing and advertising agencies.

Members of the process workers' union, SLADE, finished their ballot yesterday on merger terms with the 108,000-member National Graphical Association.

While the NGA's ballot is likely to show a majority in favour, that of the 25,500 SLADE members is less predictable. The result is expected early next week.

Also involved is the small National Union of Walkovermen, Decorative and Allied Trades, which has fewer than 4,000 members.

A SLADE-NGA merger would be an important step toward achieving the ambition of some print union leaders to force a single print union eventually.

It would also be welcomed by print employers as likely to ease old demarcation problems. The new union, to be known as the Graphic Arts Union,

would probably soon enter talks with the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (SOGAT) which itself is talking sporadically with the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (NATSOPA).

The SLADE ballot has been conducted amid protest from some members of its art union section, who, virtually since the start, have campaigned against the policies and procedures of the main union.

This campaign has drawn public, Parliamentary, and even union criticism of SLADE's recruiting methods. In art studios and advertising agencies, and prompted the Conservative Party to announce that it would set up an inquiry into the union if returned to office.

Leaders of a dissident "moderate action committee," whose degree of support within the art union is far from clear, have also campaigned against a merger with the NGA on the grounds that the interests of

the Slade Art Union would be submerged in the new union.

Two members of the SAU have been to court to challenge proposals for drawing up detailed rules and constitution for the art union.

In one of two separate, but related cases they were successful. In the other their submission was redundant.

It became clear yesterday that their threat to take legal action against the merger ballot itself was unlikely to materialise, partly because of lack of funds.

SLADE believes the merger, for which Mr. John Jackson, its general secretary, and his colleagues have striven hard, could help resolve the embarrassing problem of the art union, which, for the moment at least, is in limbo.

At the same time it could be the signal for a new recruitment campaign and a bid to retrieve work that has been lost to traditional SLADE and NGA members over the years.

## Cargoes pile up in the docks

BY LYNTON MCLEAN

CARGOES UNLOADED at Britain's ports remained on quaysides in the face of intense picketing by lorry drivers yesterday.

A third of the 300m tons of port cargo in Britain each year, particularly general cargo and manufactured goods, is carried by lorry.

The balance, mainly fuel and dry bulk cargoes of grain and ore, is handled by pipelines, rail and coastal shipping and is unaffected by the drivers' strike.

The 19 ports run by the British Transport Docks Board operated as centres of open and closed warehouses.

At Hull, four 24 ft freight containers loaded with Continental butter were left beside a berth. At Goole, congestion built up amid limited storage space and at Felixstowe, the docks company said that cargo handling had come more or less to a standstill.

Liverpool, which would normally handle more than a tenth of Britain's fuel needs, and 24m tons of paper, ore, chemicals, steel, food, cars, trailers and roll-on, roll-off traffic each year, was dominated by pickets. No road traffic moved in or out.

Storage. A vessel for storing and processing frozen fish was working at Grimsby and local merchants have had access to fish stocks, but a vessel loaded with frozen meat was unable to unload.

Newport, South Wales, suffered congestion but Cardiff, Port Talbot, Swansea and Barry were less affected by lack of storage space.

Swansea port was cut off from lorry traffic, but steel and iron ore kept moving by rail.

Geest banana boats unloaded at Barry, but the boats may be diverted if the strike continues. Roll-on, roll-off ferries have also suffered. North Sea Ferries suspended its Northland and Norstar daily service from Hull to Rotterdam. The ships can carry up to 120 vehicles but the strike has cut loads to un-economic levels.



# Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

## PROCESSES

### Welding assemblies by laser

ADVANCES in the pulsed capability of carbon dioxide lasers are leading to dramatically improved production results, especially in welding and heat treatment.

Coherent is one of the technology leaders and some of its new techniques have already solved problems for battery manufacturers. The latter companies have had difficulty with both quality and cost when welding their products.

One task has been to seal hermetically a stainless steel cap to the case of a lithium battery with minimal heat effects on the contents of the battery. This can be accomplished with a coherent 275-watt Everlast industrial laser in the "enhanced pulse" mode, which achieves a welding speed of 30 inches per minute. Maximum penetration is 0.03 inch, with a weld width of 0.015-0.02 inch.

Another model can seal, hermetically, electrical feed-throughs to a lithium battery case, with minimal distortion

and no damage to the feed-throughs or the contents. This method is attractive because there is only a small heat-affected zone and no special vacuum chamber is necessary. Penetration is 0.02 inch without inert gas shield, and a linear speed of 8 inches per minute can be achieved.

A higher-powered unit, the 525-1, offering 500 watts continuous power, had been used to heat-treat, selectively, rotating shafts of SAE 1090 steel through transformation hardening on the wear surfaces. It has achieved a linear speed of 40 inches per minute with no part distortion due to the heat-treating process. The depth of penetration is 0.02 inch with a hardness of 62 (Rockwell "C"). The treatment is performed on finished components with minimal distortion. There is selective hardening of wear surfaces only.

Coherent (UK), 13 The Mall, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0DZ, Cambridge CB3 0DZ.

## OFFSHORE INDUSTRIES



Anti-hypothermia suit for use in full scale emergencies in all offshore installations, developed for Shell Expro by Stentex Fabrics, Darwen, Lancs. The material is basically in three layers bonded together—outer durable material in fluorescent yellow, an inner metallised polyester face to reflect heat, and a foam cellular layer sandwiched between. The garment is designed to permit a warm air layer between the material and the wearer whilst allowing him complete freedom of movement. The material has also been used for a one-piece survival bag, designed for victims of immersion in sub-zero seas, or at hazard from exposure. The bag arrests further body heat loss above the level of self-recovery and should ensure recovery.

## HANDLING

### The ice plants cometh

ONE, TWO or four insulated container-bodies which, when joined together, can be used for ice storage, comprise a type of plant said to offer many advantages over conventional systems, says Norwegian manufacturer Finsam International, Bygdoy Alle 23, Oslo 2.

All the equipment—the ice machine, the premanufactured machinery room and the ice transport—is packed inside the container. Benefits are derived from the fact that the ice-plant is delivered at a fixed price and involves a minimum of building and administration work, and it requires an extremely short assembly time on site as all parts are premanufactured. (Provided the site is ready, the whole plant can normally be erected within two weeks).

Furthermore, the plant is said to have a high second-hand value because it can easily be moved to another location.

Storage capacity varies with the crushing degree and the thickness of ice—standard ice unloading capacity is based on an average of 20-25 tons an hour.

Plate-ice machines generally have a built-in/boiled/condensing unit and direct expansion R-22 from two tons in 24 hours to 20 tons in 24 hours.

Container bodies are normally 20 x 8 x 8 feet, the outside layer consisting of 1.2mm steel cladding welded to

the container frame to form a complete airtight shell. Inner layer is of 1.5mm aluminium sheets, and the floor/roof inner layer consists of 12mm plywood covered with fibreglass reinforced polyester. For the middle layer, rigid polyurethane insulation is used and foamed "in situ" to a thickness of 80mm in the walls and 100mm in the floor and roof.

Ice-machines have a fully wired control panel, and there are clip-on units for storage cooling. For transport equipment there is a separate control panel containing automatic fuses, starter, time relays, etc., delivered fully wired and ready to connect.

Fully automated transport of ice into and out of storage is operated from the "production" and the "delivery" part of the electric control panel.

Additionally, containerised ice-plants are also available with a range of special equipment including "packaged" water supply from ground level to condenser and/or ice-machine, insulated and ready to put up on the container walls; also water-pump to the condenser with (insulated) housing and support fastened to the container bottom rail with air-grids for remote placed aircooled condenser.

Further information from Export Council of Norway (01-899 6261).

## Sorts the small parts

BECAUSE PINS, rivets and other fasteners vary so much in length, plus or minus, outside the specified tolerance, there are problems in effecting bulk supply.

A recent example concerns a user of stainless steel rivets who required that lengths be within the 0.1mm range to satisfy the job specification and the rivet machine setting. Actual length was not critical since the machine could be adjusted accordingly. However, the tolerance was to obviate possible machine stoppages or incorrect rivet setting.

In this case, rivets supplied were outside the specified range by as much as 0.3mm—a problem which could not be rectified by the supplier without increasing costs.

The answer seemed to be in sorting the rivets into groups according to the tolerance range, but the question asked was "how?"

Overcoming the problem, by the range of sorting and batching machines based on its standard vibratory bowl feeders, is Automated Production of 7, Factory Road, Upton Industrial Estate, Poole, Dorset BH16 5HT (0202-62 4727).

Parts fed from the bowl correctly orientated are transferred via a track arrangement to a precision mechanical or electronic gauging unit, says the company, where they are then selected according to pre-set tolerances, and then diverted into a further set of tracks.

These can be directed to load the parts into magazines, or direct to the process. Alternatively, the tracks can be led to a series of the company's counting units and, from thence, to packaging or bagging units.

Depending on customers' requirements, or the size of the components being handled, feed rates of more than 150 a minute can be achieved, says the company.

## DATA PROCESSING

### For mobile recording

LATEST DIRECT writing recorder from Bell and Howell, the 5000 SC, has built-in miniature signal conditioning arrangements to provide a versatile paper recording system for up to eight channels of data.

With the eight channels of conditioning the unit weighs only 13 kg; operating from a 12-volt dc supply—a vehicle battery for example—it consumes less than 4.5 amps and can be plugged into a car cigar lighter socket, making it particularly suitable for mobile applications. Alternatively the recorder can be plugged into

the mains. Called Minigraph, the instrument makes use of a tungsten halogen lamp instead of the more customary ultraviolet source, offering a long life and a start-up time of 150 milliseconds for ultraviolet. It is thus available for operation almost immediately after switching on—there is no need to leave the instrument running "awaiting use," thus economising on both lamps and motor.

The high intensity of the lamp used and the low ambient light level in the recorder

## Small businesses micro

BASED ON Zilog microprocessor hardware, Micropower of Basingstoke has introduced a "complete business system" with an entry level price of under £10,000, which includes printer, VDU, all software, installation and training.

The system is called MCS and will be seen publicly for the first time at Microsystems '79 in London (January 31 to February 2).

Micropower is aiming at small to medium sized businesses and the system will take care of all ledger, order entry, stock control and payroll. It is extendable, claims the company, by many times at a cost which is

little more than that of one extra employee.

Basic hardware consists of the MCZ-1/05 micro, Centronics 702 printer, and the Hazeltine 1500 visual display unit. Included are 8K bytes of random access memory and 600K bytes of floppy disc, allowing an 80 character 24 line display on the VDU. Printing is at 120 characters/sec.

Further up the range the more powerful MCZ-1/20 or 1/25 floppy disc or the 1/35 cartridge disc systems are employed.

More from Hampstead House, Basingstoke, Hampshire (0256 54121).

## IN THE OFFICE

### Versatile copier

OFFERED by A. B. Dick is a new model of plain paper copier, the Model 990 which can handle a variety of copying jobs including labels, transparencies and letterheads.

Sheet or roll plain bond paper can be used and in the latter case a length selector enables the operator to choose from six paper lengths between 5½ and 17 inches, including A3 and A4.

The unit's sheet by-pass feed makes it quick, easy and inexpensive to make two-sided copies on any kind of paper. The first copy is delivered in

less than seven seconds with further copies at the rate of one every four seconds.

A flatbed glass copy board is employed, and for copying three dimensional objects and bound volumes a two-way hinge opens the flatbed cover and also raises it up to three inches at the hinge.

A di-1 setting allows from one to 20 copies to be made and a cumulative counter records up to a million.

More from SS, High Street, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 8BA. (01-868 8898).

## COMPONENTS

### Low-cost servo units

LATEST introduction by Portescap is the H series of instrument motor tachogenerator units for use in high-performance drive and positioning systems.

Design is based on a new tachometer unit which is only 16 mm in diameter and is assembled in the factory to any Escap 23 or 25 direct current motor.

The motors all have very low inertia as a result of the ironless rotors employed, thus reducing to a minimum the drag on the system. They also

exhibit low output ripple (about 5 per cent) due to the use of a nine-segment coil, and particularly linear speed-output voltage characteristics.

A choice of self-lubricating sintered bronze bearings or ball races is available which, together with the precious metal commutators and brushes, result in a long, maintenance-free life.

More from 204, Elgar Road, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0DD (0734 861485).

housing allows standard direct writing papers to be used (the same type as in UV recorders) over a wide range of paper speeds down to one millimetre per second.

The universal wiring of the module housing accepts, without modification, the majority of the signal conditioning modules including high gain differential amplifiers (10,000 times), a transducer bridge amplifier, change amplifier, frequency-to-voltage converter and a transient tachometer. Others are under development.

More from Lennox Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG22 4AW (0256 20244).

## HEATING

### Exhaust heat saves fuel bills

A COMPANY which manufactures a range of plastic bottles and caps, etc., for the packaging of cosmetics, Wells Hinton Plastics of Amersham, Bucks, says it has managed to drastically cut its winter fuel costs by heating its working environment with warmed air from the exhaust of a compressor manufactured by CompAir Industrial, Broomfield Works, High Wycombe, Bucks. (0494 21181).

Majority of containers are produced at the factory on pneumatically powered injection moulding machines, and because of the nature of the end product contents, it is essential that each plastic bottle is completely free from odour. The use of the Broomfield RA75 compressor assures the desired level of clean, odour free air is achieved quietly and efficiently.

The machine's low operational noise means that it is able to be situated in the corner of a 9,000 square feet production area, right alongside the workforce which benefits from the warmed air.

It is only necessary for the oil-fired boiler to be switched on for about 20 minutes on a Monday morning as, thereafter, the heat from the compressor keeps the temperature even until Friday evening. During the summer months, the heat from the exhaust is ducted outside the shop.

Following the first installation, another compressor was installed at the manufacturer's sister company, Wells-Stride factory, on the ground floor of an old mill.

Situated on either side of the machine is a stores and office area and, anticipating the heat output from this compressor installation, ducts incorporating fans were placed high in the side walls to transfer the heat into both areas. Warm exhaust air here provides the total heating for a floor space of 5,600 square feet.

## TRACER PHONE

Integrated telephone and paging

Cass Electronics Limited

Phone 0444 6266 for information

Estimated consumption of fuel oil per month in this location was about 500 gallons a month. With the successful introduction of the compressor, the three-storey mill building is kept at the required temperature, and supplementary heating is now provided to the canteen on the mill's first floor.

Future expansion of the two manufacturing plants is to include extra compressors, says the company, and heating for the works will again be tapped off the exhaust heat.

## CONSTRUCTION

### Opens glass doors

A SLIDING-DOOR system for use with framed or unframed plate-glass doors is being offered by Besam of Aldershot.

Power is provided by an electric motor which moves the door leaves through a chain-and-sprocket system. The only connections required are a single-phase power supply and the leads from the actuation device. The standard operator is fitted with a carrier, or upper frame, designed to hold the sheet of glass, and the track on which the carrier runs is reinforced to take the additional weight.

The track forms part of a newly developed aluminium profile which spans the full width of the doorway; the profile also acts as a rigid framework for the door operator and supports the top edge of fixed glass side-screens, if fitted.

Standard sizes of door opening are based on a 200-mm module with a maximum of 2,000 mm for double-leaf and 1,000 mm for single-leaf doors. Openings up to 2,600 mm can be supplied to special order.

Besam also supplies complete sliding plate-glass doors based on the new system. This service covers the supply of plate-glass door leaves and side screens, floor guides specially designed for glass leaves, and the complete operating system, as well as aluminium frames and brush-type seals where required.

Besam is located at Unit H, Holder Road, off North Lane, Aldershot GU12 4RH. Hants (0252 313146).

## Picture us in Paris

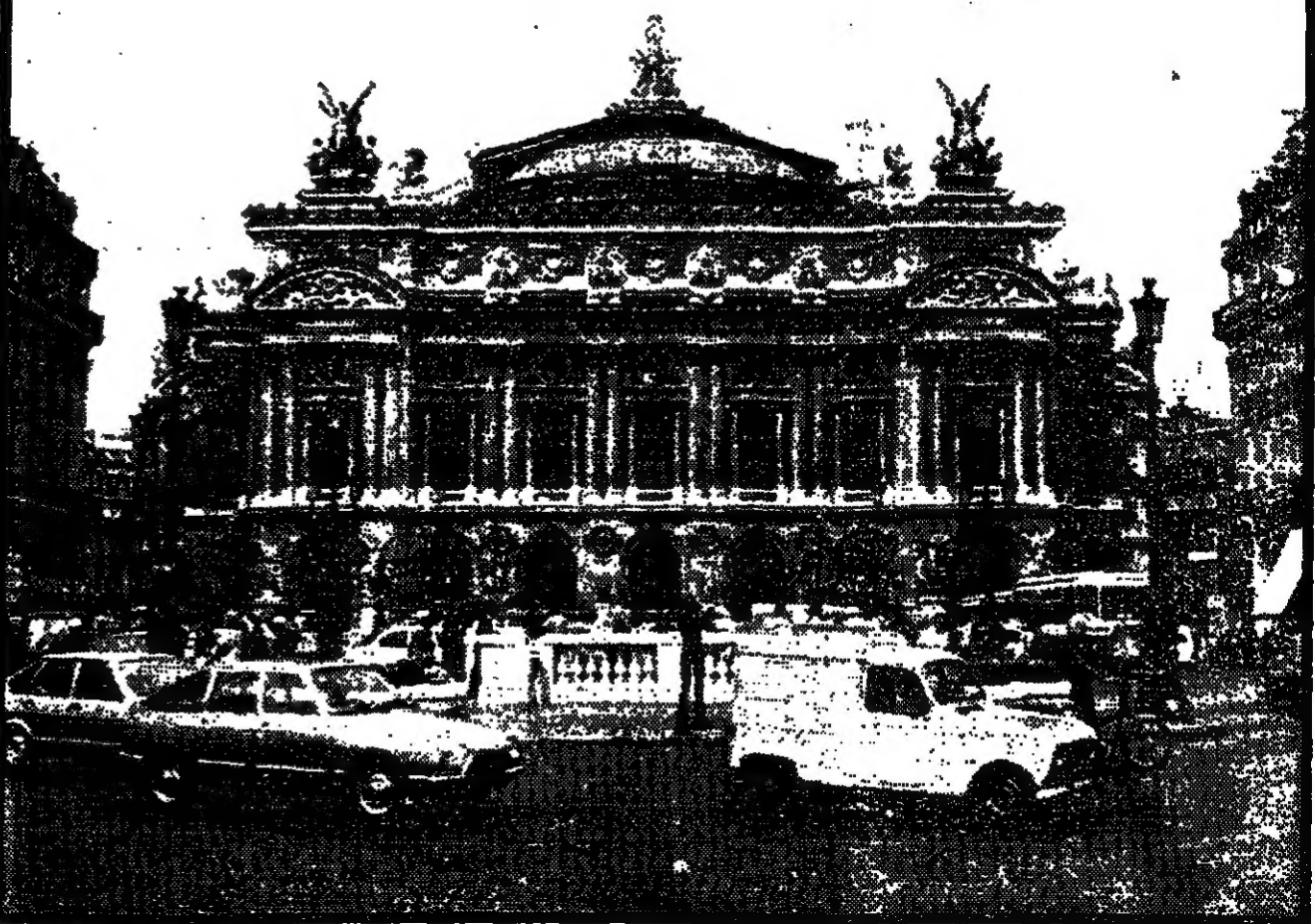
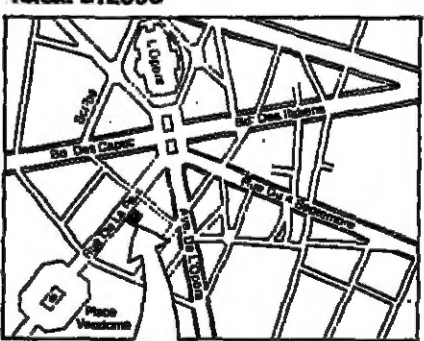
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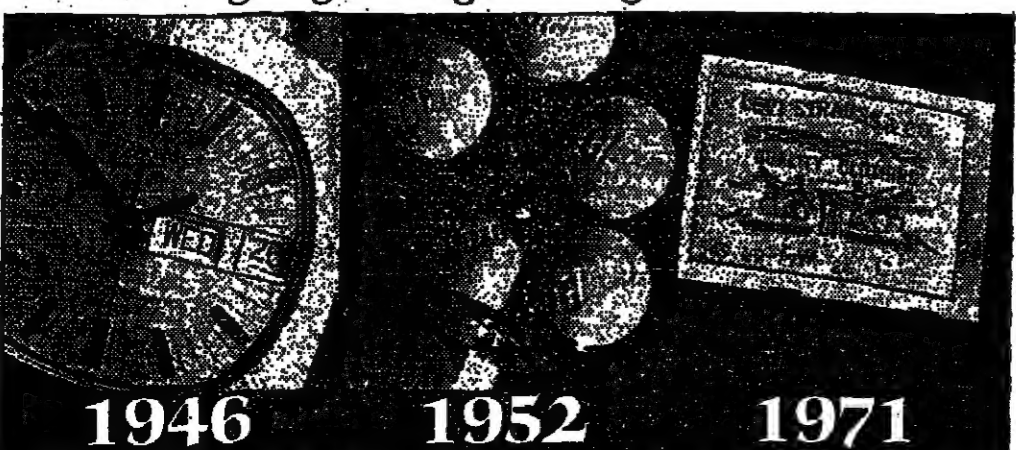
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## APPOINTMENTS

## Group chief operating officer for BOC

Mr. John Williams has been appointed group chief operating officer of BOC INTERNATIONAL. Mr. Williams, previously managing director of BOC Limited, the wholly-owned subsidiary responsible for operations in the UK and Europe, has been a member of the parent Board since February 1968. Mr. Williams is also present BOC International regional director for the Pacific and South-East Asia, based in Sydney, Australia. Mr. Williams is managing director of BOC Limited. He has been a BOC International director since July 1974.

Mr. R. P. Foley has been appointed managing director of COMPTON TRIM AND NAME-PLATES, a subsidiary of C.H. Industrials.

Mr. James Cupples has been appointed an additional director of PHOENIX TIMBER.

Mr. Harry Denham and Mr. Geoff Finch have been appointed to the Board of ADMIRAL SPORTSWEAR. Mr. Denham is company secretary and Mr. Finch, joins Admiral as control and marketing director.

Mr. Nathan W. Blanksby has been appointed deputy managing director of MATTHEW HALL ENGINEERING following four years as chief executive of the Matthew Hall Keynes Engineering companies in Holland and Belgium. He will report to Mr. R. W. de Haze Winkelman, sales director, is to succeed Mr. Blanksby as managing director of Matthew Hall Keynes Engineering companies.

Mr. Peter Snook and Mr. Angus Maitland have been appointed associate directors of CHARLES BAKER CITY.

Mr. Dennis Britain has retired as chairman of the Board of BRITAINS. He is succeeded by Mr. J. H. Thake, chief executive.

Mr. D. H. Ebdon has been elected chief accountant administration at BRITISH GAS.

Mr. W. D. Walshe has retired from RUSH AND TOMPKINS GROUP and has relinquished his directorships.

Mr. C. J. Hampton, general manager — administration of PETROFINA (U.K.) has been appointed a director.

Mr. John Roper, Labour and Co-op MP for Farnworth, Lancs, is to join the INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL STUDIES COMMITTEE ON BUDGETARY REFORM (the Armstrong Committee) in place of Mr. John Garrett, Labour MP for Norwich South, who has withdrawn.

Mr. Richard E. Bullock has been appointed to the Board of TELEMOVIE UK.

Mr. David Trace, managing director of Wittenberg Automat, has been invited by the Royal Danish Embassy in London to

join the newly-formed ANGLO-DANISH TRADE ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. Ernest Merritt has retired as managing director of the DURAMIN ENGINEERING COMPANY and has become deputy chairman. Mr. Peter Conolly has taken over as general manager and chief executive.

Mr. Jim Condit has been appointed director of marketing for PLESSEY AVIONICS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. J. N. Miller has been appointed a director of PERMUTIT-BOBY, a member of the Portals Water Treatment group. Mr. Miller has been company secretary since the formation of Permutit-Boby in 1975.

Mr. David Taylor (Stephens and Carter) has been elected president of the TRUCK AND LADDER MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION for two years.

Mr. David R. Johnston and Mr. T. Alan Johnston, associates of BARTIE SHAW AND MORTON, have been appointed partners.

Mr. Charles E. Barker Bennett has been appointed an assistant manager (UK) of GENERAL ACCIDENT FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION and will be based in Perth. He returned recently from South Africa where he had been assistant general manager, South Africa since 1975.

Mr. N. W. Lamborn has been appointed a director of HARTLEY COOPER SCOTLAND.

Electronic Rentals announces the appointments of Mr. D. D. Hurley as chairman, Mr. J. E. Roberts as managing director,

Mr. J. K. Johnson and Mr. C. J. Campion as directors of BRITISH WIRELESS AND TELEVISION following the resignations of Mr. G. Duncan and Mr. W. W. Renison.

Dr. Geoffrey Lucas has been appointed sales and marketing director of FIRTH BROWN. Mr. Roy Ferry has been made marketing manager and Mr. Ian S. Carmichael, sales support manager. The company is a member of the steel division of Johnson and Firth Brown.

BILLITON (UK) has made the following changes: Mr. H. Hatcher, chairman and managing director of Morris Ashby, and Mr. F. W. Stone, a director of James Girdler and Co., have retired but remain consultants to their respective companies.

From February 1, Mr. D. Panton relinquishes the managing directorship of H. J. Enthoven and Sons but remains on the Board. In addition, Mr. Panton will take over his new position in the company as director of trade and public relations. Mr. E. C. Panton will resign as managing director of British Lead Mills and become managing director, H. J. Enthoven and Sons.

Mr. A. M. Albury will be managing director of British Lead Mills.

Mr. Michael Barnes, chairman of the Electricity Consumers' Council, has been appointed to the council of the ADVISING STANDARDS AUTHORITY. He fills the vacancy left by the late Lord Peddie.

Mr. Dennis Eldridge has been appointed to the Board of STOFFENSON CLARKE SHIP-PTING and has been succeeded as chief accountant of that company by Mr. Vivian Silverman. The parent concern is Powell Duffryn. Mr. John Lock has been

appointed a director of Powell Duffryn Shipping Services, retaining the position of chief accountant.

The IMPERIAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA has appointed Mr. R. H. A. Wain as assistant general manager for Great Britain.

Mr. A. Wilson-Smith has been appointed managing director of ROYTRUST INSURANCE SERVICES, the new insurance broking subsidiary of the Royal Trust Company of Canada. Mr. R. T. J. Bence and Mr. R. E. Brown, vice president European region of the Royal Trust Company, have been appointed directors.

Enck Maley, All-Mexican, managing director of Assam Bankers, Malaysia, Berhad, will join SIME DARBY HOLDINGS on April 2 as director of corporate affairs and as a member of the group executive Board. Enck Maley is a former deputy secretary general of the Malaysian Treasury. He will take over his new post, which includes the group's planning and development functions, from Mr. A. J. Samner, who is to become planning director of Tarmac in the UK next March.

The Council of the EUROPEAN OPTIONS EXCHANGE has appointed Mr. M. N. H. Jenkins (managing director of the EOE) to be managing director of the management of EOE. Other members of the management of EOE are Mr. J. E. Westcott, general manager, and Mr. L. W. G. Echelen, managing director.

Mr. Cecil J. Baker has been appointed a group director of HUNTING GATE GROUP.

## CONTRACTS

## Sealer line at BL Cars Cowley

The metal finishing division of CARRIER ENGINEERING COMPANY, Solihull, has secured a £750,000 order for the No. 1 sealer line at BL Cars Cowley. Used in the building up paint thickness between primer and finishing coats, the No. 1 sealer line will comprise a tac rag booth, a 100 ft long Carrier-patented hydrospin booth, a flash-off area to remove solvents and finally an oven and cooling section. Exhaust air treatment plant is also to be incorporated to treat oven fumes.

SIMON-ROSEDOWN'S of Hull (Simon Food Engineering Group) has supplied a Rosedowns/Volator semi-continuous deodoriser to Croda Premier Oils, also of Hull, under a £300,000 contract. The deodoriser, 84 feet long, has been installed as part of Croda's expansion and modernisation of its Mills Refinery, Hull.

LESSER CONSTRUCTION has been awarded a £120,000 contract by Glasco Operations UK to de-

sign and build an apprentice training centre in North Lonsdale Road, Ulverston. A lecture room, two rooms for use by instructors, and separate instruction rooms for pipefitting, welding, electrical, instrument and mechanical fitting, will be provided.

POWER CLEANING, of Ramsey, Hampshire, are undertaking a £75,000 contract for British Rail for the cleaning and repair of brick and stone work at Victoria Station, London.

GEO. A. MOORE AND COMPANY, the Wetherby (Yorkshire) based furniture manufacturer, announces an extension of their exclusive arrangement to supply kitchen furniture to the member boroughs of the London Housing Consortium which is estimated to be worth £15m.

A contract worth \$5m (£2.5m) has been awarded by the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority to ITT SPACE COMMUNICATIONS INC. for the installation on the island of a major satellite communications ground station. The

station will be located between Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, and the port of Limassol.

Contracts totalling over \$1m (£350,000) for fire detection systems for 27 Boeing 747 aircraft, being purchased by four Far East operators, have been won by GRAVINER, a member of the Wilkinson Match, safety and protection division. Grainger is to supply the total overhead detection systems for the RB211-JT4-CF-6 engines on the aircraft.

The heat exchanger and pressure vessel division of HEAD WRIGHTSON TEESDALE, has been awarded a manufacturing contract worth \$1m for 18 shell and tube heat exchangers by Stone and Webster Engineering. Their destination is a Naptha Steam Cracking Plant at Petkim Petrokimya AS at Alagay, Turkey.

An order for 121 explosion-protected multiway switchfuse assemblies, worth £26,000, has been won by the West Midlands-based electrical manufacturers, WALSALL CONDUITS.

## CLUBS

AVL 189, Regent Street, 734 8882. A la Carte. All-in Menu. Three Spectacular Floor Shows. 10.45, 12.45 and 1.45 and music of Johnny Hallyday, B. B. King, GARGOYLE, 59, Dean Street, London, W.1. 11.30-1.30 AM SHOW. AS YOU LIKE IT. 11.30-1.30 AM Show at Midnight and 1 am. Mon-Fri. Closed Saturdays. 01-537 8455.

## EDUCATIONAL

FLORENCE. Learn Italian quickly and well at the British Institute. Courses January 30-March 23. March 24-April 15. April 17-July 6. Also a week course. Accommodation, meals, and transport. 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 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1181, 1183, 1185, 1187, 1189, 1191, 1193, 1195, 1197, 1199, 1201, 1203, 1205, 1207, 1209, 1211, 1213, 1215, 1217, 1219, 1221, 1223, 1225, 1227, 1229, 1231, 1233, 1235, 1237, 1239, 1241, 1243, 1245, 1247, 1249, 1251, 1253, 1255, 1257, 1259, 1261, 1263, 1265, 1267, 1269, 1271, 1273, 1275, 1277, 1279, 1281, 1283, 1285, 1287, 1289, 1291, 1293, 1295, 1297, 1299, 1301, 1303, 1305, 1307, 1309, 1311, 1313, 1315, 1317, 1319, 1321, 1323, 1325, 1327, 1329, 1331, 1333, 1335, 1337, 1339, 1341, 1343, 1345, 1347, 1349, 1351, 1353, 1355, 1357, 1359, 1361, 1363, 1365, 1367, 1369, 1371, 1373, 1375, 1377, 1379, 1381, 1383, 1385, 1387, 1389, 1391, 1393, 1395, 1397, 1399, 1401, 1403, 1405, 1407, 1409, 1411, 1413, 1415, 1417, 1419, 1421, 1423, 1425, 1427, 1429, 1431, 1433, 1435, 1437, 1439, 1441, 1443, 1445, 1447, 1449, 1451, 1453, 1455, 1457, 1459, 1461, 1463, 1465, 1467, 1469, 1471, 1473, 1475, 1477, 1479, 1481, 1483, 1485, 1487, 1489, 1491, 1493, 1495, 1497, 1499, 1501, 1503, 1505, 1507, 1509, 1511, 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2177, 2179, 2181, 2183, 2185, 2187, 2189, 2191, 2193, 2195, 2197, 2199, 2201, 2203, 2205, 2207, 2209, 2211, 2213, 2215, 2217, 2219, 2221, 2223, 22



## THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

## British strikes: why managers can't sleep at night

R. J. Ramsey, the industrial relations director of Ford, UK, replies to last week's article by J. J. Maling, a former shop steward, which provided a shop floor perspective of factory strikes.

IT IS NOT often that reading the Financial Times causes me to lose sleep but Mr. Maling's article on British strikes to your January issue made me so unhappy that I not only lost sleep but decided that I must try to correct the dangerous misapprehensions that he may have created.

The apologists for British strikes have three well-known themes:

- that we have far less damaging strikes than other nations, such as the United States;
- that, in any event, they only occur in a small part of British industry; and
- that the time lost through sickness and accidents is far more significant.

## Strike habit

Unfortunately, all three statements are completely untrue. The strike problem in Britain is endemic and widespread. It is the biggest single cause of our industrial and economic decline as a nation and there is no way that we are going to progress as a nation unless we can solve the problem, and that is the reason why your article kept me awake.

How can Britain solve the problem if Mr. Maling and many others either don't believe that the problem exists or that if it does, it is not serious?

Let me examine the position. First, the British strike habit is vastly more damaging than in any other of the advanced Western industrial nations, with the possible exception of Italy. The severity of strikes is not only a function of man hours lost but also of the frequency and predictability of strikes.

In the United States, indeed throughout the free world, it is commonplace for employers to be faced with end of contract strikes on wages, or other conditions. These strikes are regrettable and damaging but at least they can be foreseen and, to some degree, anticipated by customers who can take a certain amount of protective action. They are the legitimate price of preserving a free society.

What is virtually unique to Britain is not these strikes but

the incessant daily unofficial strikes, in breach of procedures, which make the jobs of both management and shop floor employees a misery.

Intermittent unofficial disputes and threats of unofficial disputes make the planning of production a nightmare, concentrate the energies of management and trade unions on fire-fighting instead of building constructive relationships and create never-ending attitudes of antagonism. They cause vast losses of the nation's annual productive capacity which occur almost unnoticed because most of the disputes do not hit the headlines, do not get notified to the Department of Employment and do not become part of official statistics.

Nevertheless, they ruin the British reputation as a reliable supplier of goods and services. As a member of a large company operating throughout the Western world I am only too keenly aware that this problem, with its attendant catastrophic consequences, is almost unique to Britain.

## Out of the blue

The comparison with time lost through sickness and accidents is totally misleading. Time lost through these causes in Britain is, if anything, a good deal less than in many other Western nations, but those other nations don't lose any of their productive effort as a consequence. Sickness absence can be planned for, as a regular, inevitable occurrence and, provided an adequate labour force is recruited to take it into account, and providing trade unions agree on mobility of labour between jobs then no loss of production results.

But a stoppage of work,

coming out of the blue, by as few as 10 or 15 men, can throw the whole productive effort of a factory or a series of factories completely out of gear for hours or days and involve the laying off of thousands of other employees, with loss of wages.

We may decide to cherish the illusion that the problem does not really exist, but you cannot fool customers. Customers both at home and abroad, know when they are not getting the goods they have ordered on the day they were promised them. Customers overseas know that this is a peculiarly British problem.

Mr. Maling's caricature of management really won't wash. There may have been a time when British management could reasonably be lampooned for their inability to appreciate how shop floor relationships should be handled, but for the majority, that time is long past. Employers generally are fully aware of the fact that their employees have the economic power to ruin the Company for which they work. Not surprisingly, therefore, they increasingly give the fullest possible attention to providing the institutions and procedures and a management style to produce better relationships.

Most employers understand that employee participation is not something awaiting Government legislation before it is embarked upon. On the contrary they know that employee participation in Britain is a daily reality through the simple fact of the existence of the British trade union movement based on shop floor representation, and of the economic power possessed by its members. They know that, because this participation is founded on the adversary principle and is too often of a negative charac-

ter, the job of managing in Britain is tougher than in most other countries, but they accept that challenge.

However, they also know that there are two missing ingredients to any hope of this country embarking on a more successful course:

1. the attitude of people like Mr. Maling, who do not see the strike problem for the national disaster it is, and
2. the failure of the British trade union movement to be able to sign a procedure agreement with a 'no strike' clause until the procedure is exhausted, or an annual economic agreement with a 'no strike' clause and be able to guarantee absolutely that the signatures on the agreement will be honoured.

## Confidence

Some years back it was reasonable for unions to argue that procedure agreements could not be honoured because the necessary prerequisites for them to be honoured, such as status quo provisions and protection against arbitrary disciplinary action, had not been provided by management.

Today that is no longer the case, but they are still not honoured. Until that problem is solved we are not going to find either investors or customers who will place the necessary confidence in British industry.

It is my firm conviction that if we can get procedure agreements honoured and if we can remove the problem of unofficial strikes, then there is nothing that can stop a flow of customers and investors anxious to do business with Britain. We would immediately increase our national productivity, make full use of the productive resources available, improve and increase those productive resources and create more jobs by the way: real way one can create more jobs that is by finding and maintaining more satisfied customers at home and overseas.

As soon as we stop treating customers with contempt by our indulgence in unofficial strikes, Britain's future will be assured.



BUSINESS LAW

THE 4,000 or so British barristers practising in Chambers get more limelight than the almost equal number of their brethren employed in business, in the Civil Service, in local government, or teaching in law schools. But those employed in commerce, finance and industry earn more money, or so it appears from the two surveys of earnings recently published, one by the Bar Council and the other by the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry.

The surveys cover different periods and are not strictly comparable but one can safely conclude that a young barrister taking up employment in a business will immediately start earning more than he would in chambers, and will have an almost double chance of reaching the top category, which now earns over £20,000 a year, before he retires.

Presumably in those countries where lawyers in private practice command very high fees — and particularly when they have large international companies among their clients — the earnings of employed lawyers cannot keep in step with theirs.

This is most probably the case in Germany and almost certainly so in the U.S. where the contingency fee system creates fabulous incomes even for lawyers who represent small firms or individuals claiming damages, be it for injury or antitrust infringements, from large and financially strong companies.

The high fees of outside lawyers provide an incentive to companies to build up "in-house" legal teams, though this tendency is counteracted by the diversity of laws in different states in the U.S. and in the case of multinational companies, or those operating worldwide, by the need to rely on local lawyers when doing business in foreign countries.

The result is that even very large companies, with between 25 and 50 per cent of their sales outside their home countries, employ relatively few house lawyers at headquarters. Twelve such companies interviewed recently by Business International employ between four and 25 full-time lawyers in their headquarters averaging at between 10 and 15.

All these companies were reported as finding outside legal assistance too costly and disadvantageous in the long run. Yet some of them continued to farm out as much as half their international legal work at a cost which one company reported to have reached over £500,000 in 1977.

Companies whose business warrants the employment of a larger team of lawyers can include in it specialists in certain territories or branches of law. Relatively less outside help would then be needed than by companies employing only a few generalists. However, even when it is necessary to consult outside specialists, and to send lawyers admitted to courts where litigation is pending, the in-house lawyer can save the company a lot of money by curbing

## The ins and outs of employing a company lawyer

BY A. H. HERMANN

the independent lawyer's enthusiasm for protracted litigation or even avoid it altogether. On the other hand, the increasing internationalisation of legal business makes outside help more important, as only the man on the spot can interpret the law books against the background of local customs and politics.

The role of the independent specialist will also be enhanced by the flood of national and international legislation on production and employment, not to speak of the special para-legal knowledge required for negotiating with inter-governmental organisations, the EEC, international trade unions, Comecon and developing countries.

Even those large companies, which have on their staff patent lawyers, antitrust and tax specialists, and are thinking of hiring an international product liability specialist, will have to rely more on outside help in future. As long as no up-to-date computerised store of legal information exists, only highly specialised local lawyers can keep track of the latest developments.

Managements wishing to make the best possible use of a combination of outside and in-house lawyers should, at all times, be aware of the different motivations of the two kinds of lawyers and of the different conditions under which they work.

The lawyer in practice will often lack the company lawyer's feel for the business aspects of a relationship or situation from which an agreement to be drafted—or a dispute—is likely

to emerge. He may be inclined to take a dangerously "pure" legal view. On the other hand he is likely to be blissfully ignorant of any inter-departmental warfare and of the peculiar ideas of the managing director so that his advice will be undiluted by the need to pacify the egos of influential members of the management.

The in-house lawyer has, of course, a much greater identity with the interests of the company employing him than has the outsider. A litigation lasting several years, costing hundreds of thousands of pounds, and ending in a disaster may terminate the career of a staff lawyer while it may provide the outside lawyer with a fortune big enough to be enjoyed by his grandchildren.

To make the best use of the diverse motivations and abilities of inside and outside lawyers is a difficult, but worthwhile, managerial problem. Inside lawyers must be given a feeling of independence and security and encouraged to give their individual — not collective — opinions, and not to hesitate even if they know that the management will not like them. Such independence and direct access to top management should also be afforded to lawyers working in subsidiaries. Outside lawyers, on the other hand, should be taken into one's confidence, have the company's policy explained to them and made to accept that even a successful litigation could occasionally be bad for business.

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## BUSINESS PROBLEMS

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

## Assessable as a director

I am a director of a small close company, in which I have about 10 per cent of the equity. For 1974/75 they wish to tax me on a health, sickness and life insurance for which I have paid £1,000. I thought it had only recently been disallowed. The same problem applies to a BUPA subscription in 1975/76, plus sick-pay insurance. In 1976/77 I received £39 in luncheon vouchers. They say this is taxable as well. Are they right? Are BUPA subscriptions, etc., taxable in 1976/77? As they are, I am sure, any Act you can quote would help.

Because you are a director, all the items you mention are assessable. The change in the law you are thinking of merely extended the assessability of health insurance premiums to all employees, instead of merely directors and higher-paid employees. We cannot quote any legislation which would help you to resist the tax demands.

To help you understand the rules governing the taxation of directors' benefits, we suggest you ask the company secretary for copies of the forms P11D which the company submitted to the inspector showing your benefits and reimbursed expenses for 1974/75 onwards.

The relevant legislation is: section 106, Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, for the years before 1977/78; section 61, Finance Act 1976, for 1977/78 et seq.; and (for all employees): section 68, Finance Act 1976, for 1976/77 et seq. The taxation of the cost of

luncheon vouchers is subject to extraordinary concession A3 which you will find in a free booklet (IR1) obtainable over the counter at most tax inspectors' offices, or by post. Your vouchers presumably do not satisfy the second condition for concessional treatment.

## Resumption of a profession

Since 1973 I have been a salaried partner with a firm of consultants, prior to which I had been a consultant on my own. I am now thinking of becoming a consultant again. When I was so previously I was allowed travelling and other expenses to a client at a distance. What, please, will be my position vis-à-vis the Revenue in future? We take it that you were treated as having permanently discontinued your consultancy profession in 1973, and that the cessation rules were consequently applied to your schedule D case II assessments for 1972/73 (or 1973/74) and the preceding two years. As a salaried partner, presumably you have been subject to PAYE and assessments under schedule E.

That being so, the schedule D case II commencement provisions will apply to the resumption of your consultancy profession for 1978/79 and the next year or two. The rules relating to travelling expenses etc. have not altered significantly during the past five years (at least as far as you appear to be concerned), but you will find general guidance in a free Inland Revenue booklet called Starting in Business (IR28). You should be able to get a copy

from your local tax inspector's office, or any convenient tax office.

## Non payment of rent

Twice I have had to sue for forfeit for arrears of rent and twice I have followed the drawn out Court proceedings to obtain judgement and then on both occasions the tenant has eventually paid up, this last time having to serve also a warrant for execution.

Previously I have served a Notice under Section 146 of the Law of Property Act 1925, on another tenant for dilapidations needing repair, under breach of covenant, but not for rent unpaid.

There is still three years of the tenant's lease to run; how can I terminate the lease? How can this avoidance of forfeiture in favour of the tenant be brought to an end? You cannot avoid the statutory provisions concerning relief from forfeiture whether for non payment of rent or for other breaches of covenant. The best that you can do is to seek as a condition of relief from forfeiture, an order that the tenant pay your costs on a common fund basis instead of on a party and party basis. Section 146 notices are requisite in all cases other than forfeiture for non payment of rent, and even where the breach of covenant is not capable of being remedied.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

## How to play safe with security

NO COMPANY can be completely free of security worries. For some, it may not go much further than the safekeeping of the weekly wage packets. For shops, for instance, it is the more serious one of pilfering, both internal and external.

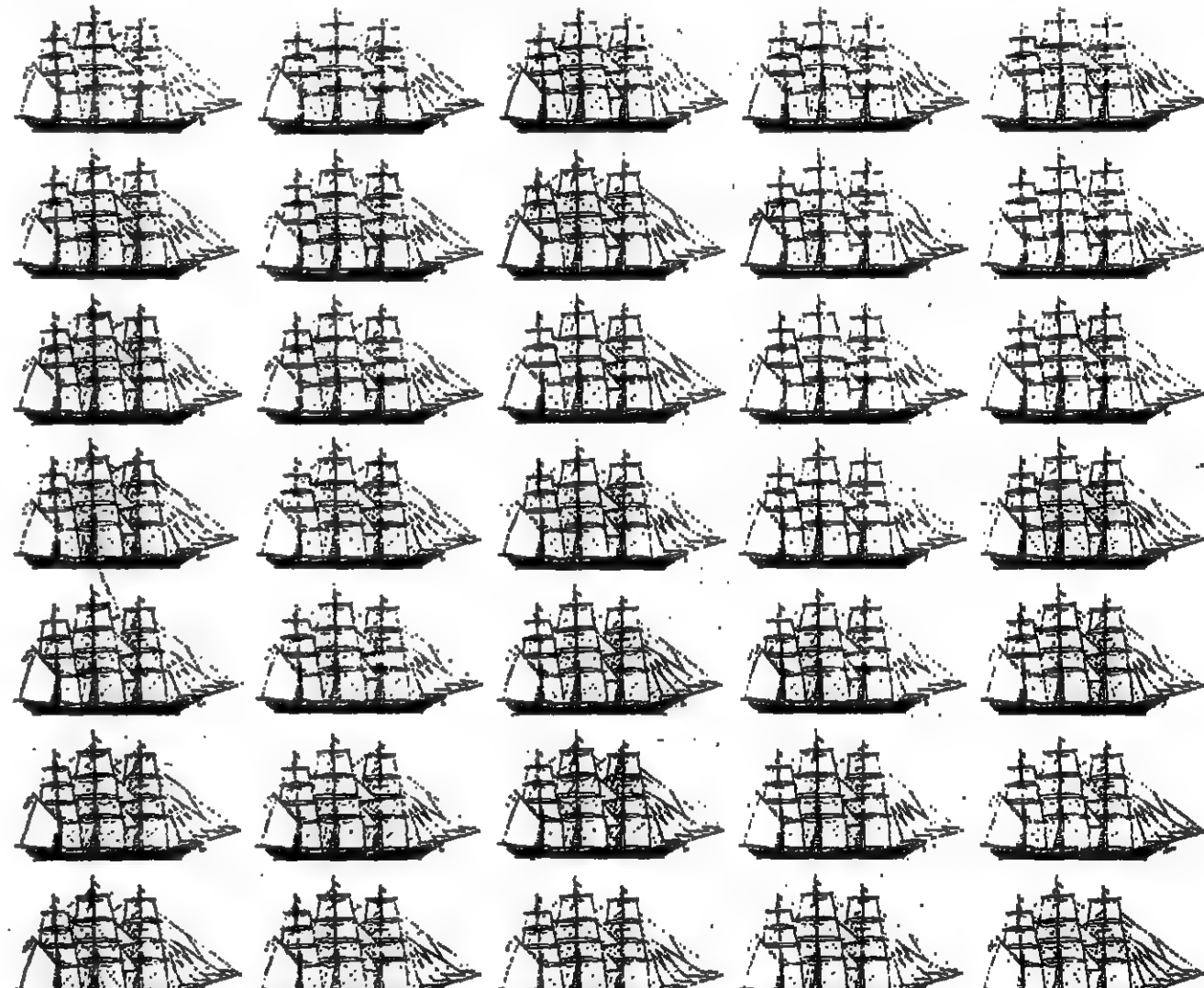
But security problems may be far more complicated than the mere protection of physical goods; computer fraud and the theft of information, such as research and development know-how are growing worries for many companies. And for some of the larger companies there is the all too real threat of kidnapping of senior employees.

The enlarged edition of Practical Security in Commerce and Industry, to be published later this month provides a wealth of information on dealing with the problems of security. So much so it cannot be recommended as bedtime reading.

This latest edition has been revised to take account of changes in legislation since 1972 and it includes new information on risk assessment, contractors and kidnapping.

The book is divided into seven parts which include aids to security, how to protect buildings and sites, and security in offices and shops, and a section on road transport; it also explains the requirements and rights under the law.

Practical Security in Commerce and Industry, 3rd Edition, by Eric Oliver and John Wilson, published by Gower Press, January 25, 1979; price £12.50.



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THE ARTS

Half Moon

Guys and Dolls

As *Guys and Dolls* is my favourite musical that I've never seen on the stage, not even the knowledge that the Half Moon were about to present it with a cast of seven could shorten my stride into East London. When I first saw the 1955 film version with Frank Sinatra and Marlon Brando, I thought it odd the way the actors made with the language, pushing and shoving it around like they had no respect. Then I read some Damon Runyan, listened to the original cast recording and realised what a good thing it was not to, even if in to.

The book, by Abe Burrows and Jo Swerling, is sheer linguistic delight and much of it, especially in the first half, lifted happily and heavily from Runyan's short story, "The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown."

Sarah is a Salvation Army lass who, while attempting to save souls on Broadway, is eyed by tip-crapping Sky Masterson and whisked off to Havana as his part of a bet with Nathan Detroit, another hot gambler. Nathan's romance is with Miss Adelaide, a show-stopping nightclub girl with the memorable instruction for Nathan to take back his mink "to from whence it came."

In Robert Walker's witty fringe production, which never allows you to forget the strained circumstances from whence it comes, the ensemble numbers are by far the most successful. Sarah is sweetly played by Lizzy Althen, but she does not make so good with the big songs, whereas Maggie Steed as Adelaide makes a little too good with hers, but that we can forgive

Television

Ringing in the new

by CHRIS DUNKLEY



Anthony Andrews in 'Danger UXB'

Now that the season of good will and ghostly old tat is over, the air waves are chock-a-block with new material: new drama series, new situation comedies, and new factual series — all packed around with the expanded polystyrene of holiday programmes and holiday commercials. In fact so many genuinely new series (as distinct from new runs of old series) have started in the last week, or are starting in the next few days, that one column will not be enough to deal with them.

However before coming to those series there are a number of single programmes which deserve comment.

In *Search Of Offa* from BBC Manchester was a documentary of a fairly familiar sort, collecting together the evidence — archaeological, numismatic, geographical — about the life of a particular historical figure, in this case King Offa. Producer Derek Towers put the story together efficiently enough, but the particular interest for me was in presenter Michael Wood. His enthusiasm and learning and his ability to impart both brought to mind several other highly successful television presenter/academics: Professor W. G. Hoskins, Sir Mortimer Wheeler, and Professor Alec Clifton Taylor. The big difference is that Wood looks, dresses and acts as though he is about 25 and that is tremendously refreshing and encouraging for those of us who consider this type of programme to be among television's most successful.

BBC's *Let's Go Naked* was a study by producer Adam Clapham and reporter John Pitman of the rapidly increasing business of nudist holidays (18m stripped last year). They earned top marks for dealing calmly with a subject so often sniggered at in Britain. However the desperately contrived avoidance of below-the-waist pictures — presumably from terror of accusations of voyeurism — and the absence of a single really good looking body (all on the cutting room floor for the same reason?) eventually became the most noticeable and distracting aspect of the programme.

Thames Television's version of the RSC *Macbeth* showed what simple yet marvellous things can be done with Shakespeare on the small screen, especially with a well rehearsed cast of leading actors. Ian McKellen's similarity, with his Brylcreemed hair, to the thinner Kray twin was uncanny but perhaps quite suitable. While being glad of the richness in having two British television companies offering Shakespeare, this production did make one more anxious than ever about the BBC's traditional and naturalistic rendering of the complete works, of which there are still 34 to go.

The "Play For Today" from BBC Birmingham, *The Out Of Town Boys*, about Irish builders cheating, drinking, and fighting in the lavatory, was plain nasty from start to finish, and rare in having no redeeming features whatsoever: plot, dialogue, and characters were all offensive.

Roy Kendall's ATV play *The Children of the Gods* took a much more interesting subject (a religious cult which separates its members from their families) and was nearly very good. However it was too long and never quite convincing enough about

the appeal of the cult or about the faults—cosiness, hypocrisy and so on—of the parents.

And so to the new series. Presumably as part of an economy drive, BBC seems to have started making two drama series for every plot. Their current story involves a young Englishman flying to an exotic island, booking into a modern hotel, running into a mystery about which the local men seem to know a lot more than he does, having his room broken into, then spending long periods with a stunning local blonde, driving very fast along sunny coast roads with scenic mountainous backgrounds.

Last Wednesday they showed Episode 1 of this story under the title *The Aphrodite Inheritance* (only imagination suggested it was called *Who Pays The Lotus Eaters*) and on Friday they also showed Episode 1 but called it *Running Blind*: different actors, different islands, different cars but all easily interchangeable — not unlike a series of long Martin commercials with added gunshots.

Another new series, new to Britain anyway, also made slavishly to formula is *Chips*, acronym of the California Highway Patrol, represented in London. Weekend's Saturday evening series by a couple of motorcycle-mounted cops named Jon and Ponch and a black policewoman named Robbie who drives a car. In Episode 1 they accompanied two articu-

lated tankers full of chlorine gas on a short journey and the only incidents were a group of drunk farm hands shooting wildly from their van, a multiple car crash, an escaped tiger, a landslide, a leak in one of the tanks, a set of uppity townsfolk barricading the highway, and one of the articles coming apart.

Rubbish of that sort makes you realise how good our home made nonsense can be. In *Dick Turpin*, for instance, *London Weekend* themselves have produced a much more entertaining series and one that is full of strongly drawn — if familiar — characters. The grasping county sheriff Sir John Glutton (!), his sneering thief-taker Captain Spiker, the young lad from the inn who is a golden hearted tearaway, and his hard working widowed mother who is threatened with eviction by Sir John are hardly the most original of creations. No more is Turpin himself.

However, by casting against type and using the well-liked Richard O'Sullivan in the title role, producers Paul Knight and Sidney Cole have achieved half their presumed object before shooting a foot of film: that of turning a rather terrifying thief into another lovable rascal in the Robin Hood mould. With Turpin making a fool of the sheriff, lots of slick swordplay, plenty of wild Fairbanks style leaping from galleries, and well prepared filming on good locations, it all looks very promis-

ing. Turpin has taken young Swiftwick under his wing, and the series is set to rival the very best of the old Saturday morning cinema serials.

*Dick Barton, Special Agent* looks as though its producers at Southern might be hoping for success in precisely the same area, but since they have remained absolutely faithful to the radio original's tone, atmosphere, language and ethics I cannot imagine that 1978 children will be particularly interested. We 1948 children are already hooked again, of course. "Jock! Snooey! Aaaaah!" "Dum diddle um diddle um diddle um..."

And that, in drama, brings us finally to the two most ambitious and interesting of the new bunch: *Telford's Change*

from BBC 1 and *Danger UXB* from Thames.

For the first half-hour of the lengthy opening episode, *Telford's Change* looked suspiciously like a snarled up version of *The Brothers* or an EEC version of *Mogul* or a 1979 rehash of *The Venturers* or a latterday reworking of *The Power Game* or — well, you get the idea. Slowly, however, we began to see the possibility that it had intentions pitched higher than the mindless escapism (however enjoyable) of *Dick Turpin*, *Chips*, *Dick Barton*, *Running Blind*, *The Ferryman's Inheritance* and all the other television comic books.

Even now, without seeing more episodes, it is impossible to be completely sure, but the combination of Brian Clark's writing and Peter Barkworth's acting did seem to be producing some depth of character from which true drama might later emerge. It seemed so, to be precise, at the moment when international jet-set banker remembering the simplicity and certainty of a life dedicated to getting the cross-casting right; a small hook on which to hang a sizeable hope, but we shall see.

*Danger UXB* (unexploded bomb) seems pretty clearly to be a cut above the average war series and to be quite unconcerned, thank goodness, with the replaying of nationalist hostilities. From the opening moments it showed a hard edge of social realism which is very rare and quite unmistakable on television: *Z Cars* often had it, and *Upstairs Downstairs* sometimes — not so surprising, perhaps, since John Hawkesworth produced *UD* and is the writer/producer of *Danger UXB*.

Once again there is room for the drama to grow out of character — the characters of officers, NCOs and men of 97 Bomb Disposal Company. And while the defusing of a bomb was the predictable climax of Episode 1 (though it surely cannot be used as a climax every week) by far the most interesting aspect of the drama was the developing relationship between the new young officer and his squad. *Danger UXB* is certainly the most interesting newcomer so far this season. More new series next week, however.



Jim Hooper, Maggie Steed, Matthew Robertson and Robin Hooper

Purcell Room

PLG Young Artists

The Park Lane Group has been forced this season to impose severe restrictions on the scope and the number of its concerts. The admission of severe financial hardship, and the ominous warning that "unless substantial amounts of money are found, the Group will have considerable difficulty in continuing its activities at all," is something that should send a shiver through all musically concerned people in London. Meanwhile, though, one of the most important and worth while of those activities — the annual January week of young performers and 20th century music in well-judged combinations — has been preserved unharmed and in full form; the first concert of the 1978 PLG week took place on Monday.

A casual pre-concert glance at the five programmes suggested that this year's selection of works ranges perhaps less widely, and perhaps less stimulatingly, than in the recent past — it seems that the various fringes of musical activity have been somewhat excluded. Yet by

the side of most South Bank concerts large or small, the sense of adventure captured in the juxtapositions of fresh young performers and tough, interesting contemporary music remains as exhilarating and as necessary as ever.

The soloists at the first concert were a violinist, the Australian William Hennessy (partnered at the piano by the pianist Yolande Wrigley) and the pianist Dawson-Lyell. It was by the violin that the novelties were presented — first Rant by Edward McGuire (b. 1948), an engagingly bold-spirited solo, stated by the sounds and the sense of the Scots national fiddle dances, which served as test piece for the 1978 Carl Flesch competition; and Giles Swayne's Duo for violin and piano (1975), a characteristically fertile, quick-witted, elegantly executed invention inspired by images of the Loch Ness monster.

To both and to Don Banks' early (1953) violin-piano sonata, a composition at once attractively precise in musical matter and prolific in its development, Mr. Hennessy brought the immediately perceptible virtues

of a well-schooled technique — clean bowing, energetic attack, sure intonation — that has been cultivated from an even more immediately apparent natural aptitude for the instrument. What he seems to lack, so far, is a range of individual, poetic tone colours, a singing, shining sonority that is all his own.

Miss Wrigley, a pupil of Bernard Roberts, confined herself to modern French classics — five of the Debussy Studies, and three of Messiaen's *Vingt Regards*. There was something formidable, and also something a little disconcerting, even chilling, in her presentation of both composers. Intellectual understanding was strongly evident, and admirable in such things as the definition of the special character in each Debussy study. But of the magical, incantatory, or dazzling elements in both composers — different, of course, but equally significant in each — there was little trace. The piano very seldom sounded clear, picturesque, or beautiful, and in the music Miss Wrigley played it should have.

MAX LOFFERT

Elizabeth Hall

Michel Dalberto

by DOMINIC GILL

I disagreed profoundly with the jury's decision last September at the Leeds International Piano Competition to award first prize to the young French pianist Michel Dalberto. His performance in the last two rounds of the competition showed unmistakable talent (few musicians reach the final stage of any international competition without serious reason); but I found little in the playing of exceptional interest. It was a safe verdict, which allowed the evidently competent and attractive to pass in the place of real, dynamic and dangerous (but by its very nature fallible and vulnerable) talent: a verdict which recognised the safe virtues of predictable efficiency, ease and conventional approach — and by the same token allowed the more subtle and controversial virtues of originality, eloquence, poetry and fire, still more crucial but far less palpable of definition, to go by the board.

In Leeds, I found Dalberto's sequence of nicely turned, small-scale performances fluent but oddly featureless: never less than well schooled, firm and lucid, but without real centre, real daring. His South Bank debut recital on Monday evening confirmed and amplified those reservations. The programme was the third of the present series called *Mainly Slav* — and on this occasion, for the manner of its presentation, it might have been better entitled *Very French*. Dalberto's opening performances, of Prokofiev's *Sarcasms* and Mozart's D major

sonata K311, were the very quintessence of nonchalant elegance: in the *tempestoso* of the *Sarcasms* all poise and good manners, without a trace of granite, or grit, or razor-edge glitter; in the precipitous feet-fingered but never remotely diabolical in the dark *sonatino* No. 4 no more than prosaic, without a glimpse of its smouldering, manic rhetoric.

Dalberto's Mozart was crisply enough articulated (though sometimes rhythmically unstable); but such a quick, mechanical delivery became very soon predictable — a surface study for fingers, delivered with élan, but without lyrical instinct or heart. The first of a group of Skryabin pieces, the little *Fueller d'album* op. 45 no. 1, was suddenly in a different class entirely — fresh, calm and languorous, a study of the greatest refinement, beautifully played. But there is more to Skryabin than floating timbres, *pur et lempide*; in the ninth sonata there are flashing lights, and currents of dark frenzy, which Dalberto chose to pass by entirely.

His second half was devoted to Schubert's D major sonata D850: an account more remarkable for its lack of fine detail and subtle working than for any positive fault — and in its avoidance of any kind of epic stance or forceful dramatic pointing, once more strangely prosaic. The text was inescapably that of Schubert's sonata: but delivered as a note, not as a revelation, without magic.

Exhibitions at the National Poetry Centre gallery

The New Year sees an important new development at the Poetry Society's headquarters at 21, Ears Court Square. In line with a policy of maximum utilisation of the Society's building, starting this month, the ground floor events room will also serve as a small, permanent art gallery.

The new National Poetry Centre Gallery will be devoted to monthly exhibitions of prints, graphic work and photography. Though by a happy coincidence two out of the first three artists exhibiting are also professional poets, it is not intended that

work exhibited should necessarily have any connection with poetry.

The programme of exhibitions from January to March is: January 8-31: *Photographs* by John Stathakis; February 5-23: *Collages* by John Digby; and March 5-31: *Wood Engravings* by Monica Poole.

The gallery will be open from 10 am to 5 pm, Mondays to Fridays, and on most evenings. There is, of course, no charge for admission, and work exhibited will be available for purchase.

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## Public sector principles

BEFORE THE TENSE prearrangements now in progress about public sector pay have had time to surface in open disputes, the unions concerned with the public services have joined forces to present their views on the right way to plan public services. They have produced some helpful thoughts on the difficulty of planning public services, but have also inadvertently explained why public sector pay claims, even in a year of irresponsibility, have a special flavour of cloud-cuckoo land.

## Services provided

The central complaint of the unions is that the planning of public services is almost exclusively in financial terms. There is no attempt to describe and measure the services actually provided. Services, they argue, should be explicitly planned in relation to changing demands and changing needs, and set out appropriately—the number of children educated, the effectiveness of police cover, and so on. If financial stringency demands a rise in the rate of infant mortality, they say, the fact should be made explicit, so that Parliament can take decisions with its eyes open. One might less emotively substitute potholes in the roads, or longer delays in answering Government letters; the principle is sound enough.

Unfortunately the unions—which demand, predictably enough, to be consulted about everything at every stage—no sooner introduce one sound principle than they throw out another. Everything is stated in terms of services provided and jobs created or preserved. There is not only no mention of wages or money costs, but a specific call for the abolition of cash limits. In other words the unions, which accuse Parliament in effect of planning services on a cost basis only, which is at most a half-truth, now demand planning in "real" terms only, with no regard to financial cost, which is pure moonshine. It is little wonder that unions who think like this can demand 30 per cent to restore ancient differentials or 40 per cent for "fair pay," with no sense of absurdity.

The fact is, as the unions well know, that before cash limits

were introduced, planning in "real" terms had destroyed all financial discipline. The result was that when the public sector unions secured large settlements in 1974-75 on grounds of restoring differentials, the government borrowing requirement reached twice its planned level, and the financial consequences—a murderous squeeze on private sector credit, and a subsequent collapse in the exchange rate—caused a sharp cut in output and in living standards. The Government learned the lesson, and now rightly insists on financial discipline as a basic condition for a stable and predictable "real" environment. The unions appear to have learned nothing whatever.

Of course a rational financial policy cannot guarantee rational behaviour by everyone else; it can only ensure that irrational behaviour produces quick and unpleasant results. In the private sector this lesson seems to be sinking in; the more exposed products of industry, at least, show some awareness of foreign competition, the implications of restricted credit and a consequently firm exchange rate. Today's banking figures, and the fact that the exchange rate has not been depressed by the present wave of militancy, drive the message home: excessive cost increases—including indirect costs imposed by service industries—will mean lost markets, lost output and lost jobs.

## Out of line

Cash limits cover exactly the same message for the public services: real prospects must suffer if costs get out of line. The old presumption that cash would always be found to carry out "real" plans, regardless of cost, is explicitly rejected. That is why the unions want them abolished, and why the Government must reassert their primacy. Monetary discipline has the same message for the private and public sectors: immoderate wage settlements destroy jobs. As long as Ministers ram that message home, instead of trying to contrive modest coverings out of the rags of the 5 per cent policy, the Government is fighting inflation in earnest, and for the long term.

## Western aid for Turkey

IT HAS TAKEN the West a long time to wake up to the full implications of the crisis that is threatening to engulf Turkey. The country's economic problems have long been well known. But until quite recently the prevailing view has been that they could be resolved by classic methods of international funding through the IMF and debt rescheduling. When NATO Governments decided last May to look into the problems facing the weaker members of the Alliance, Turkey was seen as sharing equal priority with Portugal and Greece. In the past few weeks, however, the pace of events has quickened and the rapid putting together of a special emergency aid package for Turkey is evidence of the new sense of urgency now felt in Western capitals.

## Upheaval

The Turkish Government may not be satisfied with the scale of the effort, of which it is expected to be informed by Mr. Warren Christopher, US Under-Secretary of State, in Ankara today. But it should at least be reassured that Turkey's problems are being taken seriously by its allies at the highest level. There is now a growing recognition in NATO that Turkey faces not merely the threat of economic collapse but potentially large-scale political and social upheaval which could jeopardise its position as a member of the Western alliance. The risk was tacitly acknowledged at the Alliance's pre-Christmas Ministerial Council, which gave the go-ahead for an unprecedented economic aid effort for Ankara. The clear message was that Turkey's economic difficulties had reached the point at which they were threatening the security of the entire Alliance.

The reasons for the sudden increase in Western anxiety are not difficult to find. The Iranian crisis has in many ways overshadowed developments in Turkey. But it has at the same time dramatically underlined the instability of the area bordering the Soviet Union, from the Bosphorus to Afghanistan.

If further warnings were needed, it was provided by the Christmas riots in Eastern Turkey which left 100 dead and obliged Mr. Bulent Ecevit, the Prime Minister, to declare

martial law in 13 of the country's 67 provinces.

The West's fear is not so much that Turkey will suddenly decide to leave NATO, dismembering the Alliance's Eastern flank, and embrace either neutrality or a new relationship with the Soviet Union. Mr. Ecevit has uttered dark warnings over the past 12 months of possible changes in the country's defence posture. But he has never spelled out what this might mean in practice and the main purposes of such warnings would in any case now appear to have been achieved—he has secured the removal of the American arms embargo, and, now, substantial extra economic aid. What really worries the West is the possibility that Mr. Ecevit might lose control and the country collapse into anarchy or civil war.

Mr. Ecevit maintains that he can only preserve democracy in Turkey if large-scale Western aid is forthcoming. If he is right, then it is obvious that such aid must be given—even if it means bending the normal rules of IMF supervision. It would also be helpful if the EEC countries could show a little greater sensitivity towards Turkish feelings the wake of their decision to negotiate Greece's entry into the Community as its tenth member. It is quite understandable, even if misguided, for Turkey to draw the conclusion that the Community will henceforth side with Greece in the seemingly interminable series of disputes between the two countries.

## Solidarity

But if the case for helping Turkey is overwhelming, there is also plenty that Ankara can do to reciprocate. It is high time for solutions to be found to the festering Aegean demarcation dispute with Athens and the related issue of Greece's reintegration into NATO's military framework. Neither side is blameless in the continued stalemate over Cyprus, but it would not be difficult for Ankara to show itself a little more willing to find a lasting solution. Both Cyprus and the Aegean are causes of serious concern to the other NATO allies. Turkey is entitled to expect that alliance solidarity should not be only a one-way

THE Vietnamese would have the world believe that there has been little more than a change of government in Cambodia. And one for the better. In their view, the brutal regime of Premier Pol Pot has been replaced by a nationalist administration that seized power in a liberation struggle and which is now pledged to reverse Pol Pot's draconian policies.

In fact, of course, Vietnam's lightning invasion of Cambodia—a campaign that has made it effective master of most of the country in under three weeks—amounts to a redrawing of the map of Indochina. The new Cambodian regime has established an eight-member Revolutionary Committee to run the country under President Heng Samrin, 44, a military commander under Pol Pot who tried to overthrow him in May last year. But it will be even more under the shadow of Hanoi than the feeble government in neighbouring Laos. Vietnam has some 40,000 troops in Laos to prop up the Communist Pathet Lao administration which has failed to establish a grip on the country since it took power over three years ago.

## Ho Chi Minh's old dream

To the member states of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), this consolidation of the three states under the wing of Vietnam looks suspiciously like the fulfilment of Ho Chi Minh's old dream of a Communist Indochina federation. As such it has reawakened all the ASEAN states' fears after the collapse of Saigon in 1975 and the American withdrawal, of a militant communist bloc in South East Asia hostile to their own form of government and a threat to their security. Events could certainly turn out this way.

But one of the most striking features of the last three years in South East Asia has been the contrast between the comparative success of the ASEAN states in managing their economies and internal affairs and the continual squabbling between the Indochina states whose economies have fast been slipping downhill. The ASEAN members have notched up annual growth rates of about 6 per cent and until now have enjoyed relative political stability. The Indochina states have failed to put down resistance to their regimes; and to the disruptions of war and the "socialist" reorganisation of their economies have been added disastrous floods and drought.

Vietnam now has on its hands not only the problems of reviving its economy and reconciling the South to rule by Hanoi: it is potentially bogged down in a guerrilla war in Laos and Cambodia.

The Vietnamese seem to be deeply unpopular in Laos and Hanoi has had to send home some of its soldiers who have

got involved in quarrels with the local population. They were disliked just as much in the last century, when the French brought in both Vietnamese workers and later soldiers to put down a tribal rebellion. The history of Khmer (Cambodian) hostility to the Vietnamese runs even deeper.

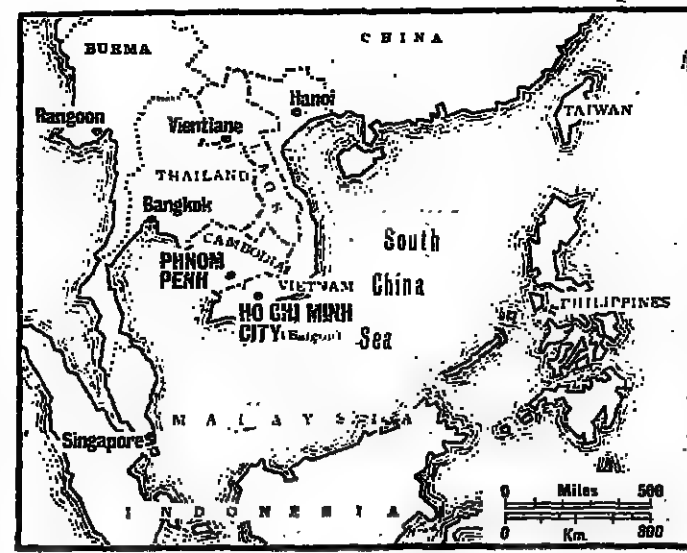
In handling this potential unrest and in reviving development projects, Vietnam's task will be made more difficult by the increased isolation from its South East Asian neighbours and the major industrialised states that is likely to be the immediate price of its invasion. Donor nations like Japan have already said they will review their aid programmes to Vietnam—though in Japan's case there are practical problems to a sizeable cutback—and Vietnam can rule out the help from the U.S. which has seen on the cards. That leaves as its only major source of assistance the Soviet Union and the Comecon bloc, which are short of funds themselves.

At first glance the complexity of shifting governments and frontiers in Indochina looks like an insoluble jigsaw puzzle. But in fact the main divisions are surprisingly clear and have had a long historical continuity. Khmer (Cambodian) nationalism has its roots in the immense Angkor kingdom which, in the early centuries of this millennium under the ancestors of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, covered one of the largest territories in South East Asia and left as a monument to its civilisation the magnificent temple of Angkor Wat. But after the 18th century the kingdom prey to expansion by Thailand from the west and Vietnam from the east until the French, in the mid-19th century, salvaged the Cambodian state through establishing a French protectorate.

Thailand is the one South East Asian state that escaped European colonisation and developed its distinctive national culture through a succession of kingdoms which at the height of their power pushed across Cambodia and Laos to challenge the Annamite Kingdom of Vietnam. Continuing Thai apprehensions of Vietnam were reflected in Thailand's decision to let the Americans use it as a staging post for the bombing of Vietnam.

Vietnam had its origins 2,000 years ago in a small state in what is now the north of the country. Much influenced by Chinese civilisation but resentful of repeated Chinese invasions, the Annamite rulers developed an increasingly powerful state that pushed southwards to the rice bowl of the Mekong delta and westwards as far as Laos—the smallest state on the peninsula and which has repeatedly seen its independence lost to Thais, Cambodians and Vietnamese.

For the Chinese, Vietnam— and indeed Indochina—has always seemed an area over which they had the right to either influence or suzerainty. In



the past they would have resented Vietnam's pretensions to the leadership of an Indochina federation as they do today; and in the 19th century they equally resented European colonisation of the peninsula as they now object to Russian intrusion there.

This pattern of continuing rivalry was frozen by the French colonisation of the last century and more recently by American intervention. After the Second World War, North Vietnam emerged as the only South East Asian state to be Communist-led. The movement spread to Cambodia and Laos, giving an impression after the U.S. defeat in 1975 of more unity among the Communist states than there actually was.

But alarm at the possibility of an expansionist Communist movement caused other South East Asian leaders to club together to form ASEAN in 1976 as a vehicle for economic co-operation but also for consulting on mutual security. One of the effects of Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia is likely to be to strengthen the so far muted security side of the Association.

## Everything has gone wrong

Almost since the end of the Indochina war, everything has gone wrong for the Communist states. The Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia attempted a social and economic revolution that emptied the towns and left misery in the countryside. Under Pol Pot's fundamentalist philosophy Buddhism was banned, money abolished, marriages fell under the control of the state, which organised the family unit, the population was shifted in large numbers to agricultural areas to build dams by hand while industry was spurned. Tens, possibly hundreds, of thousands of people died.

But in addition to provoking this domestic upheaval, Pol Pot became involved in a succession of quarrels with Vietnam. Armed clashes occurred in 1976 over border districts—where the population was often mixed

Cambodian/Vietnamese—and over the ownership of islands in the Gulf of Siam. Vietnam agreed to return these to Cambodia.

Then last year came particularly brutal attacks by Cambodian forces on Vietnamese villages and towns in the Mekong Delta region between Xa Mat and Ha Tien. Bodies of Vietnamese were left badly mutilated. The Vietnamese temporarily abandoned parts of this fertile region. How the conflict escalated is still not clear. Pol Pot may have been pursuing a hard-fisted chauvinist policy and he was almost certainly encouraged by the Chinese who saw Cambodia as a counterweight to Vietnam. The Vietnamese equally provoked the Cambodians by incursions of their own. About 150,000 refugees from the Pol Pot regime moved across the border—many of whom became recruits for the insurgency movement that the Vietnamese began to promote. By December 1977 the conflict came into the open as the two sides publicly attacked each other.

At some point after that, the Vietnamese leadership must have decided that Cambodia under Pol Pot had become too great an irritant and that he had to be removed. They set about the operation using the same careful planning with which they conducted the war against South Vietnam, slowly grinding down the Cambodian forces in battles in the Parrot's Beak and Fish Hook area before launching their major offensive that carried them to Phnom Penh.

Vietnam might not have resorted to such a drastic solution had it not had such major domestic political and economic troubles. The irritant of Cambodia—and the belief that China would go on exploiting it—proved too much. Victory in the Indochina war ended the drain on the economy of the north, but it also meant the end of U.S. aid pumped into the south. Hanoi sought both to pursue a policy of reconstruction and of socialist transformation. Large numbers of people were moved from cities in the South—above all Hu Chi Minh city (Saigon) to

the New Economic Zones and collective farms. Industry and commerce were increasingly turned over to the state. The educated bureaucracy of the south was shipped off to re-education centres and the administration put in the hands of northerners often unqualified for the job but who irritated southerners by their ostentatious living styles.

On top of this dislocation came three exceptionally bad harvests as the result of drought, heavy rainfall and flooding. There was a 2m ton shortage of rice in 1977 which doubled last year. More stringent rationing was imposed which led to the spread of the black market—largely in the hands of the Chinese, who are the traditional commercial class. In increasingly desperate economic circumstances, the Vietnamese looked more and more to the U.S. dropping their demands for war reparations as a prelude to normalising relations, and seeking aid and investment. But they had no joy.

At the same time as Vietnam's conflict with Cambodia grew, so the Chinese created a diversion by increasing their forces on the border with Vietnam. This was partly in response to what the Chinese considered as unjustified Vietnamese action in forcing ethnic Chinese out of Vietnam. But the combination of growing Chinese hostility and a deteriorating economy finally forced the Vietnamese to turn more to the Russians and to Comecon. In retrospect the 25-year Treaty of Friendship between Vietnam and Russia signed at the end of last year was more an attempt by the Vietnamese to safeguard themselves against reprisals from China after the invasion of Cambodia, than a vehicle of increased aid.

One of the ironies of the present situation is the clumsiness with which the Chinese have handled their diplomacy in Indochina. Well before the collapse of Saigon, friction had developed between China and Vietnam—particularly over President Nixon's visit, to China in 1972. But in their attempts to counter Vietnam's influence, the Chinese first allowed themselves to be drawn into supporting the Pol Pot regime "to a point they found embarrassing and then demonstrated to the rest of South East Asia that they could not protect it. As a result of such blunders, the Thais will look very carefully now at Chinese proposals for supplying guerrilla supporters of Pol Pot through Thailand, which provide the only means of access to the interior of Cambodia. The Thais are also irritated by Chinese support for the Thai Communist party.

Vietnam already has a Treaty of Friendship with the third member of the federation, Laos. The pattern this has established of close government co-operation in which officially the identity of nation state is preserved is likely to become the model of

Vietnam's relations with Cambodia. Vietnam has been increasingly drawn into Laos—initially probably against its better instincts—by the threat of the Pathet Lao regime being overthrown and the country's need for economic assistance.

The potential of such a Communist federation is that it could exploit one of the richest river basins in the world, through harnessing the Mekong river. But to the ASEAN states it threatens a polarisation in South East Asia between conflicting political and economic systems. The weakness of the ASEAN nations is their lack of homogeneity and the potential fragility of their social structures. Malaysia is beset with a serious communal problem between its Chinese and Malay inhabitants, as to a lesser extent is Indonesia.

## Vulnerable Thailand

By far the most vulnerable state in the new situation, however, is Thailand. The policy of its leader, General Kriangsak Chavanon, has been to seek an accommodation with the Communist states—but this has proved increasingly difficult with a Vietnamese army positioned on his border. The more hard-line military commanders would probably like to see Thailand encouraging insurgency against the new Cambodian regime, though for the moment they seem to accept the Vietnamese invasion as a fait accompli.

A casualty of the invasion will almost certainly be the elections under the new Thai constitution scheduled for April but which the military might now think could provide a dangerous explosion for extremists on both sides.

Vietnam, even before it has consolidated its military position in Cambodia, now seems prepared to hold out the olive branch in an attempt to regain friends and aid. Investment in the ASEAN nations and the West are likely to meet this with suspicion. The price of its invasion will almost certainly be a period of increased isolation in which it will be tempted to turn increasingly to Russia for help. The Russians want naval base facilities at Cam Ranh Bay on the South China Sea and could press for these as the price of further assistance.

Though all the major powers are anxious to avoid becoming embroiled in another costly morass in South East Asia, the area seems to have a knack of drawing outside powers into its disputes. The French came with the obvious intention of turning them to colonial advantage. The Americans got drawn in during the 1960s—almost without noticing it.

At the moment China is putting first priority on developing its economy rather than in settling scores in Indochina. But with the Russians, the Chinese and the Americans having a stake in the region, the danger of conflict is always there, however remote.

## MEN AND MATTERS

## Split up—and sell up

The financial consequences of plunging into divorce are now even more punishing for German executives than for their counterparts in Britain. The Dusseldorf financial consultants, Interfinanz, say in their 1978 report: "It is virtually impossible for a businessman to divorce his wife without having to sell his business." The new divorce laws, says Interfinanz, require liquidity on the grand scale.

Nor do the divorces' troubles end there. "It is no longer certain that one can sell a company with a turnover of more than DM 2m," Cartel legislation often requires a special permit. A special catch applies if you want to throw in the towel. "It is hardly possible," says Interfinanz, "to dissolve a firm with a workforce of 100 without causing bankruptcy for the employer because of statutory redundancy payments."

In lighter vein, after its tour round the year's bad news, Interfinanz ends with a fresh definition of hell. It is a place where "The English produce the pop music, the Americans the architecture, the red Chinese the fashion, the Italians the budget, the Russians the hotel service, the Dutch the ethics, and the Bonn Ministry launches a new cartel law every year."

Two wheel deal The public appearance of Transport Minister William Rodgers this morning will be unexpectedly topical. It may also give a modicum of inspiration to Southern Region commuters kept from work by the ASLEF strike.

After Rodgers has climbed off the saddle, a Government film will be shown in a nearby cinema: also quite appropriately, it is called "Free Wheeling." Perhaps the Minister's message to Britain today will be: "If all else fails, buy a bike."

## Fast version

Having welcomed a plethora of new versions of the Bible since the war, the Church of England obviously felt it was unreasonable to disapprove of a proposed Reader's Digest condensed version. The condensors, who have stripped away the "inessentials" from most of the classics, are planning to get the Bible down by 30 per cent, at least some of which will be the long stories of begotten "If it led to increased reading of the other 60 per cent," said a church spokesman guardedly, "I can't help feeling a good many church people would think it very worthwhile."

## Brown studies

When Mervyn Brown flies to Lagos at the end of this month to take up the post of British High Commissioner to Nigeria, he will be starting a spell of willing bachelorhood. His wife Beth will stay in London to complete a Ph.D. on cancer cells at the Chester Beatty Research Institute in Fulham.

The Browns must be undergraduates at Oxford in the 1940s. Then she was reading modern languages, but in the course of a diplomatic life that has taken them to places as far apart as Argentina and Laos, she has gained two medical degrees.

"Beth will come out for holidays," says Brown philosophically. He will occupy himself with fostering the links between Britain and Africa's most populous country and playing jazz on his clarinet. "Jazz has its roots in West Africa," he points out. Although his Far Eastern experience included a spell as



"... and now an action replay of that Office of Fair Trading decision."

a prisoner of the Pathet Lao, Brown regards Africa as his foremost area of expertise. Last month he had a book published on Madagascar and fancies that he may write a longer one on the same island during his stint in Nigeria.

## Macho men

A crazy vision of togetherness emerges from the report on last year's bids and deals from merger midwife Nicholas A. H. Stacey, deputy chairman of Chesman Amalgamations and Investments. Takeovers, he says, grew apace to over 500, and their value in 1978 was a good billion pounds. "An interesting feature of the 'takeover' business during the past year or so," asserts Stacey, "has been the virtual absence of any company chairman hell-bent on fighting contested bids, and anxious to demonstrate his virility."

Stacey even seems a little wary of the word "takeover," fencing it in with inverted commas, and pointing instead to "leisurely conversation about getting together."

It all makes the Stock Exchange sound as chummy as a singles' club. There are, of course, other versions of Bids

and Deals 1978. One is that the amiable public surface has more to do with steering mergers past the Office of Fair Trading than with any new-found friendliness between predator and prey.

There was, I seem to remember, a distinct absence of cooing noises during Lorrho's strenuous efforts to take over SUITS. Nor has the New Year woken up to a chorus of agreement between Guthrie's and Sime Derby, and the English Property Corporation is preparing to fight off the unpronounceable NV Belegingsmaatschappij Wereld have with less than leisurely gusto.

## Coin clearance

Any bank manager might suffer the embarrassment that confronted Malcolm Parkinson, manager of a Barclays branch in Plymouth. All the night safe bags became jammed in the chute. Either the throat was too narrow, or the bags were overfilled with coins of the realm.

Parkinson sent for the local Dyno-Rod men, whose usual activity is unblocking drains. "All we asked was that they should use clean rods," he says. After a lot of poking about, the drains were cleared of the chute. They said it was the cleanest job they had ever done.

## Oil shark

A story going the rounds of motorway service stations concerned a garage in Guildford where, on Saturday, an instant queue formed after a tanker was sighted arriving. Soon enough, a man in a white coat appeared on the forecourt and explained to each motorist in turn that unfortunately petrol would have to be rationed to £1-worth each. On this basis he extracted £1 from every car in return for a cloakroom-ticket receipt. The rest you can guess.

Observer

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FINANCIAL TIMES

# Eurobond Quotations and Yields

**AIBD**

THE ASSOCIATION OF  
INTERNATIONAL BOND DEALERS

At 29th DECEMBER, 1978

The Association of International Bond Dealers (AIBD) compiles current market quotations and yields for Eurobond issues. These quotations and yields are published monthly by the Financial Times. The Association's prices and yields are compiled from quotations obtained from market-makers on the last working day of each month. There is no single stock exchange for Eurobonds in the usually recognised sense—secondary market trading business is done on the telephone between dealers scattered across the world's major financial centres. Membership of the AIBD (which was established in 1963) comprises over 450 institutions from about 27 countries.

## Eurobonds in December

BY JOHN EVANS

The Eurodollar bond market remained in an anaemic state in the closing month of the year, with the Deutschmark sector continuing to make most of the running. Year-end statistics showed clearly the fundamental shift in the balance of power in the international bond markets caused by the dollar's remorseless decline and accompanying surge in U.S. interest rates during 1978.

The dollar's share of the overall volume of new Eurobond issues was cut to 50 per cent; The Deutschmark, in contrast, dramatically increased its share to 40 per cent compared with 23 per cent recorded in 1977. New Eurobond issues last year totalled \$14.7bn equivalent, a fall of 17 per cent on 1977's \$17.7bn.

Total international bond issues in 1978, when Yankee bond, Yen Samurai and Swiss franc issues are included, amounted to \$34.17bn compared with \$33.98bn in 1977. Reflecting this shift away from dollar-denominated bonds, the league-table of lead managers similarly shows a trend in favour of continental European banks. Deutsche Bank continues to dominate the market, with 75 issues led or co-managed last year totalling \$6.53bn equivalent. Westdeutsche Landesbank comes second, an improvement of two places. It managed \$1.1bn issues totalling \$4.48bn last year. In fact, Swiss or German banks dominated the first six places,

with the exception of the "special category" investment house, Credit Suisse First Boston, which held fourth ranking.

As for borrowers, Europe continues as the main area issuing Eurobonds. It accounted for 49.81 per cent of the total compared with 53.4 per cent in 1977.

This reduced share taken by Europe, as well as the absolute decline in the number of Eurobond issues, is linked with the decreasing balance of payments deficits of the OECD countries, excluding the U.S.

According to estimates, the current account of the OECD countries shows a surplus of \$8bn in 1978 compared with a deficit of \$12bn in 1977.

Among the limited number of new issues, a \$50m offering from Norsk Hydro at 9 1/2 per cent via Hambros proved a relative success, although it was later caught up in general price weakness.

Priced at 98, the 15-year issue carried an offering yield of 9.38 per cent.

By the time S. G. Warburg subsequently brought a \$50m European Coal and Steel Community 20-year straight, the market was starting to show ominous signs of further deterioration.

This split-maturity issue, carrying coupons of 9 1/2 and 9 per cent, fell to a deep discount in after-market trading.

The month's clear-cut success was the relatively rare Swiss corporate borrowing in the dollar convertible market. Brown Boveri offered some \$85m of 15-year convertibles, initially with a 4 1/2 per cent coupon and priced at par, and saw the issue rapidly absorbed. In fact, the coupon was later cut to 4 1/4 per cent.

A major incentive here for investors is the chance to obtain Swiss franc securities, particularly at a time of official controls on non-resident purchases of such paper.

Such was the year-end gloom in the dollar sector as a whole that even floating rate notes (FRNs) did not escape entirely unscathed.

A \$100m floater for Bank fuer Gemeinwirtschaft, with a margin of 1/2 per cent over interbank rates and pricing of par, re-treated sharply in first-time trading.

For Deutschmarks, the month's highlight was the offering of so-called "Carter bonds" in the German capital markets. The securities, issued effectively as promissory notes, are designed to raise foreign currency to help the U.S. intervention effort to protect the overseas value of the dollar.

The issue was nearly three times oversubscribed, with subscriptions totalling DM 3.68bn: DM 1.77bn was allocated to the shorter three-year tranche and DM 1.28bn to the longer four-year tranche. Yields on the issues ranged between 5.95 and 6.20 per cent.

In DM bonds themselves, December saw some hiccupps as the market grappled with a heavy new issue calendar and a continued edging up in D-Mark interest rates. It proved impossible for all

the banks which had planned to bring new issues to convince the borrowers concerned to concede better terms, in view of these market conditions. Among the four cancelled issues was a planned DM 70m offering for U.S. bank, Amex International. Dresdner Bank also postponed a DM 30-100m bond for an unidentified client.

But where higher yields were offered, bonds moved well. Deutsche Bank, for instance, increased the size of its Republic of Brazil issue to DM 150m.

The lessons of December, however, have been learnt, and the West German capital markets subcommittee has set a flexible loan calendar for January of a maximum DM 1.1bn compared with December's DM 1.6bn.

Elsewhere, the expanding Kuwaiti dinar bond market enjoyed a coup with the launching of a KD 10m issue for the City of Oslo, the first top-quality borrower in this market for some years.

This was rapidly followed by another good quality borrower, Industrial Bank of Finland, whose issue was increased to KD 5m from KD 3m, following a good reception.

### CONTENTS

GROUP HEADINGS	PAGE	GROUP HEADINGS	PAGE	GROUP HEADINGS	PAGE
US Dollars—Algeria	II	Mexico	III	Euro Currency Units	V
Australia	II	Netherlands	III	Euro Units of Account	V
Austria	II	US Dollars—New Zealand	III	French Francs	VI
Belgium	II	Norway	III	Hong Kong Dollars	VI
Bahrain	II	Panama	III	Japanese Yen	VI
Brazil	II	Papua	III	Kawalt Dinars	VI
US Dollars—Canada	II	Philippines	III	Kroner (Denmark)	VI
Columbia	II	Portugal	III	Kroner (Norway)	VI
Denmark	II	US Dollars—Singapore	III	Luxembourg Francs	VI
Finland	II	South Africa	III	Saudi Riyals	VI
US Dollars—France	II	Spain	III	Sterling/DM	VI
Gabon	II	Sweden	III-IV	Australian Dollar/DM	VI
Germany	II	US Dollars—Switzerland	IV	External Sterling Issues	VI
Greece	II	Venezuela	IV	Special Drawing Rights	VI
US Dollars—Hong Kong	II	United Kingdom	IV	Convertibles—France	VI
Hungary	II	United States	IV	Hong Kong	VI
Iceland	II	US Dollars—Multinational	IV	Japan	VI
Iran	II	Supranational	IV	Luxembourg	VI
US Dollars—Ireland	II	US Dollars—Floating Rate	V	Netherlands	VI
Israel	II	Australian Dollars	V	Convertibles—Singapore	VI
Italy	II	Bahraini Dinars	V	S. Africa	VI
Jamaica	II	Austrian Schillings	V	Sweden	VI
US Dollars—Japan	II-III	Canadian Dollars	V	Switzerland	VI
Korea	III	Eurodollars	V	U.K.	VI
Luxembourg	III	Euro Composite Units	V	Convertibles—U.S.	VI

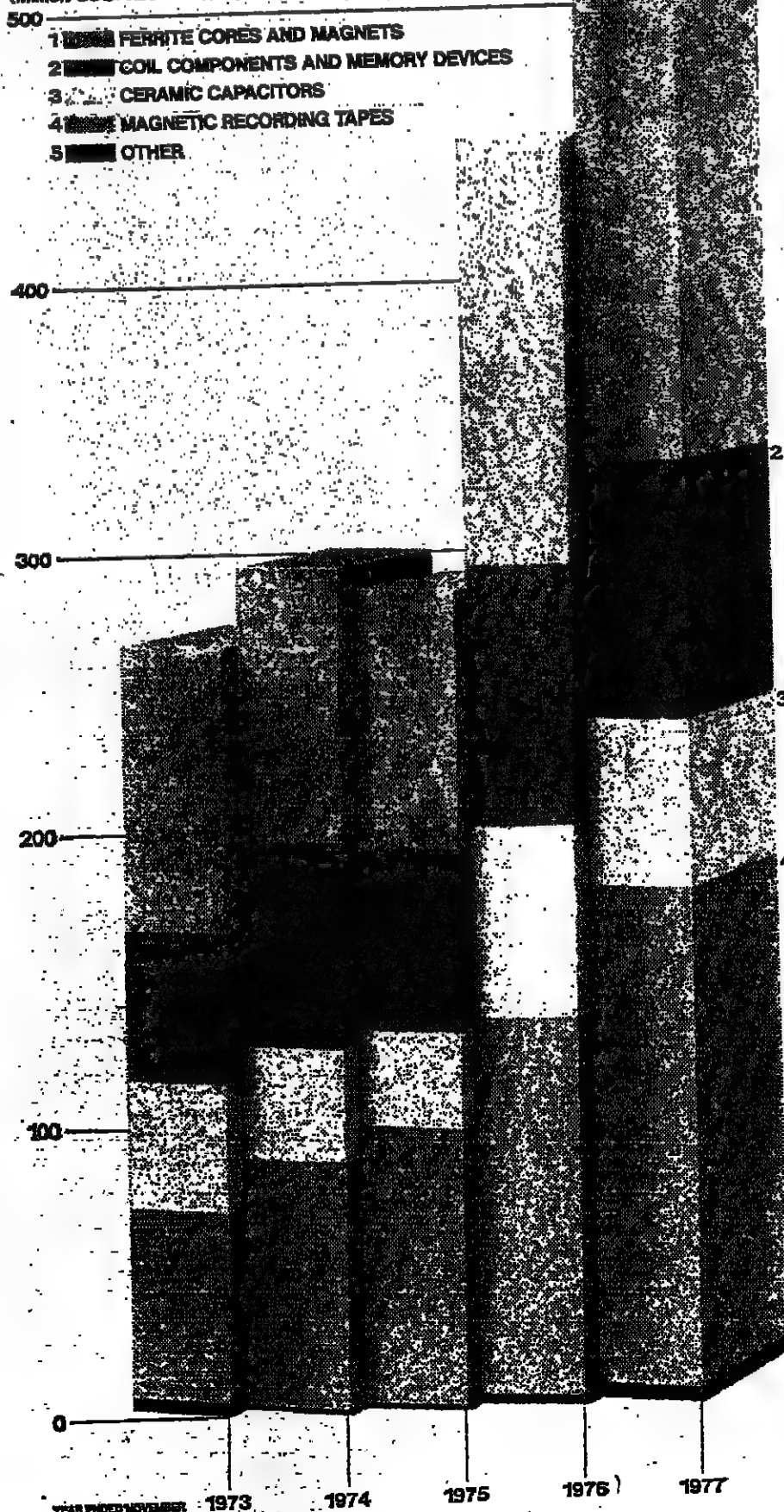
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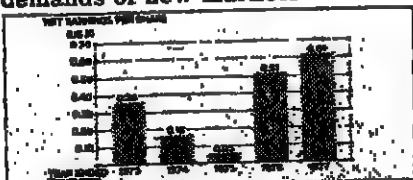
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DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CREDIT	DEBIT	BALANCE
CASH ON HAND (CONTINUED)					
1976-01-01	OPENING BALANCE	100.00			100.00
1976-01-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	50.00
1976-02-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		75.00
1976-02-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	25.00
1976-03-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		50.00
1976-03-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	0.00
1976-04-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		25.00
1976-04-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-25.00
1976-05-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		0.00
1976-05-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-50.00
1976-06-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-25.00
1976-06-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-75.00
1976-07-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-50.00
1976-07-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-100.00
1976-08-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-75.00
1976-08-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-125.00
1976-09-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-100.00
1976-09-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-150.00
1976-10-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-125.00
1976-10-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-175.00
1976-11-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-150.00
1976-11-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-200.00
1976-12-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-175.00
1976-12-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-225.00
1977-01-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-200.00
1977-01-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-250.00
1977-02-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-225.00
1977-02-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-275.00
1977-03-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-250.00
1977-03-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-300.00
1977-04-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-275.00
1977-04-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-325.00
1977-05-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-300.00
1977-05-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-350.00
1977-06-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-325.00
1977-06-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-375.00
1977-07-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-350.00
1977-07-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-400.00
1977-08-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-375.00
1977-08-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-425.00
1977-09-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-400.00
1977-09-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-450.00
1977-10-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-425.00
1977-10-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-475.00
1977-11-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-450.00
1977-11-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-500.00
1977-12-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-475.00
1977-12-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-525.00
1978-01-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-500.00
1978-01-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-550.00
1978-02-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-525.00
1978-02-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-575.00
1978-03-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-550.00
1978-03-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-600.00
1978-04-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-575.00
1978-04-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-625.00
1978-05-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-600.00
1978-05-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-650.00
1978-06-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-625.00
1978-06-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-675.00
1978-07-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-650.00
1978-07-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-700.00
1978-08-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-675.00
1978-08-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-725.00
1978-09-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-700.00
1978-09-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-750.00
1978-10-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-725.00
1978-10-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-775.00
1978-11-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-750.00
1978-11-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-800.00
1978-12-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-775.00
1978-12-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-825.00
1979-01-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-800.00
1979-01-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-850.00
1979-02-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-825.00
1979-02-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-875.00
1979-03-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-850.00
1979-03-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-900.00
1979-04-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-875.00
1979-04-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-925.00
1979-05-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-900.00
1979-05-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-950.00
1979-06-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-925.00
1979-06-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-975.00
1979-07-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-950.00
1979-07-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1000.00
1979-08-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-975.00
1979-08-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1025.00
1979-09-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1000.00
1979-09-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1050.00
1979-10-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1025.00
1979-10-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1075.00
1979-11-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1050.00
1979-11-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1100.00
1979-12-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1075.00
1979-12-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1125.00
1980-01-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1100.00
1980-01-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1150.00
1980-02-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1125.00
1980-02-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1175.00
1980-03-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1150.00
1980-03-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1200.00
1980-04-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1175.00
1980-04-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1225.00
1980-05-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1200.00
1980-05-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1250.00
1980-06-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1225.00
1980-06-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1275.00
1980-07-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1250.00
1980-07-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1300.00
1980-08-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1275.00
1980-08-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1325.00
1980-09-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1300.00
1980-09-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1350.00
1980-10-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1325.00
1980-10-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1375.00
1980-11-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1350.00
1980-11-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1400.00
1980-12-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1375.00
1980-12-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1425.00
1981-01-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1400.00
1981-01-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1450.00
1981-02-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1425.00
1981-02-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1475.00
1981-03-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1450.00
1981-03-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1500.00
1981-04-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1475.00
1981-04-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1525.00
1981-05-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1500.00
1981-05-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1550.00
1981-06-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1525.00
1981-06-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1575.00
1981-07-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1550.00
1981-07-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1600.00
1981-08-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1575.00
1981-08-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1625.00
1981-09-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1600.00
1981-09-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1650.00
1981-10-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1625.00
1981-10-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1675.00
1981-11-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1650.00
1981-11-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1700.00
1981-12-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1675.00
1981-12-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1725.00
1982-01-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1700.00
1982-01-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1750.00
1982-02-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1725.00
1982-02-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1775.00
1982-03-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1750.00
1982-03-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1800.00
1982-04-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1775.00
1982-04-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1825.00
1982-05-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1800.00
1982-05-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1850.00
1982-06-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1825.00
1982-06-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1875.00
1982-07-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1850.00
1982-07-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1900.00
1982-08-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1875.00
1982-08-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1925.00
1982-09-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1900.00
1982-09-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1950.00
1982-10-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1925.00
1982-10-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-1975.00
1982-11-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1950.00
1982-11-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2000.00
1982-12-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-1975.00
1982-12-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2025.00
1983-01-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-2000.00
1983-01-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2050.00
1983-02-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-2025.00
1983-02-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2075.00
1983-03-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-2050.00
1983-03-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2100.00
1983-04-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-2075.00
1983-04-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2125.00
1983-05-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-2100.00
1983-05-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2150.00
1983-06-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-2125.00
1983-06-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2175.00
1983-07-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-2150.00
1983-07-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2200.00
1983-08-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-2175.00
1983-08-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2225.00
1983-09-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-2200.00
1983-09-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2250.00
1983-10-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-2225.00
1983-10-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2275.00
1983-11-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-2250.00
1983-11-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2300.00
1983-12-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-2275.00
1983-12-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2325.00
1984-01-01	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	25.00	25.00		-2300.00
1984-01-15	PAYROLL	50.00		50.00	-2350.00
1984-02					

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28th DECEMBER 1978

## WestLB Euro-Deutschmarkbond Quotations and Yields

Advertisement

Issue	Price	Yield	Life*	Yield to Maturity*	Repayment
8% ADELA 7/8/83	104.00	7.48	4.28	8.82	1.483
7 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	103.50	7.18	4.48	8.50	1.483
7% ADELA 7/8/83	103.00	6.88	4.68	8.18	1.483
6 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	102.50	6.58	4.88	7.86	1.483
6% ADELA 7/8/83	102.00	6.28	5.08	7.54	1.483
5 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	101.50	5.98	5.28	7.22	1.483
5% ADELA 7/8/83	101.00	5.68	5.48	6.90	1.483
4 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	100.50	5.38	5.68	6.58	1.483
4% ADELA 7/8/83	100.00	5.08	5.88	6.26	1.483
3 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	99.50	4.78	6.08	5.94	1.483
3% ADELA 7/8/83	99.00	4.48	6.28	5.62	1.483
2 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	98.50	4.18	6.48	5.30	1.483
2% ADELA 7/8/83	98.00	3.88	6.68	4.98	1.483
1 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	97.50	3.58	6.88	4.66	1.483
1% ADELA 7/8/83	97.00	3.28	7.08	4.34	1.483
3% ADELA 7/8/83	100.00	5.08	5.88	6.26	1.483
3 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	100.50	5.38	6.08	6.58	1.483
4% ADELA 7/8/83	101.00	5.68	6.28	6.90	1.483
4 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	101.50	5.98	6.48	7.22	1.483
5% ADELA 7/8/83	102.00	6.28	6.68	7.54	1.483
5 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	102.50	6.58	6.88	7.86	1.483
6% ADELA 7/8/83	103.00	6.88	7.08	8.18	1.483
6 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	103.50	7.18	7.28	8.50	1.483
7% ADELA 7/8/83	104.00	7.48	7.48	8.82	1.483
7 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	104.50	7.78	7.68	9.14	1.483
8% ADELA 7/8/83	105.00	8.08	7.88	9.46	1.483
8 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	105.50	8.38	8.08	9.78	1.483
9% ADELA 7/8/83	106.00	8.68	8.28	10.10	1.483
9 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	106.50	8.98	8.48	10.42	1.483
10% ADELA 7/8/83	107.00	9.28	8.68	10.74	1.483
10 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	107.50	9.58	8.88	11.06	1.483
11% ADELA 7/8/83	108.00	9.88	9.08	11.38	1.483
11 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	108.50	10.18	9.28	11.70	1.483
12% ADELA 7/8/83	109.00	10.48	9.48	12.02	1.483
12 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	109.50	10.78	9.68	12.34	1.483
13% ADELA 7/8/83	110.00	11.08	9.88	12.66	1.483
13 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	110.50	11.38	10.08	12.98	1.483
14% ADELA 7/8/83	111.00	11.68	10.28	13.30	1.483
14 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	111.50	11.98	10.48	13.62	1.483
15% ADELA 7/8/83	112.00	12.28	10.68	13.94	1.483
15 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	112.50	12.58	10.88	14.26	1.483
16% ADELA 7/8/83	113.00	12.88	11.08	14.58	1.483
16 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	113.50	13.18	11.28	14.90	1.483
17% ADELA 7/8/83	114.00	13.48	11.48	15.22	1.483
17 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	114.50	13.78	11.68	15.54	1.483
18% ADELA 7/8/83	115.00	14.08	11.88	15.86	1.483
18 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	115.50	14.38	12.08	16.18	1.483
19% ADELA 7/8/83	116.00	14.68	12.28	16.50	1.483
19 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	116.50	14.98	12.48	16.82	1.483
20% ADELA 7/8/83	117.00	15.28	12.68	17.14	1.483
20 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	117.50	15.58	12.88	17.46	1.483
21% ADELA 7/8/83	118.00	15.88	13.08	17.78	1.483
21 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	118.50	16.18	13.28	18.10	1.483
22% ADELA 7/8/83	119.00	16.48	13.48	18.42	1.483
22 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	119.50	16.78	13.68	18.74	1.483
23% ADELA 7/8/83	120.00	17.08	13.88	19.06	1.483
23 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	120.50	17.38	14.08	19.38	1.483
24% ADELA 7/8/83	121.00	17.68	14.28	19.70	1.483
24 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	121.50	17.98	14.48	20.02	1.483
25% ADELA 7/8/83	122.00	18.28	14.68	20.34	1.483
25 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	122.50	18.58	14.88	20.66	1.483
26% ADELA 7/8/83	123.00	18.88	15.08	20.98	1.483
26 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	123.50	19.18	15.28	21.30	1.483
27% ADELA 7/8/83	124.00	19.48	15.48	21.62	1.483
27 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	124.50	19.78	15.68	21.94	1.483
28% ADELA 7/8/83	125.00	20.08	15.88	22.26	1.483
28 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	125.50	20.38	16.08	22.58	1.483
29% ADELA 7/8/83	126.00	20.68	16.28	22.90	1.483
29 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	126.50	20.98	16.48	23.22	1.483
30% ADELA 7/8/83	127.00	21.28	16.68	23.54	1.483
30 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	127.50	21.58	16.88	23.86	1.483
31% ADELA 7/8/83	128.00	21.88	17.08	24.18	1.483
31 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	128.50	22.18	17.28	24.50	1.483
32% ADELA 7/8/83	129.00	22.48	17.48	24.82	1.483
32 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	129.50	22.78	17.68	25.14	1.483
33% ADELA 7/8/83	130.00	23.08	17.88	25.46	1.483
33 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	130.50	23.38	18.08	25.78	1.483
34% ADELA 7/8/83	131.00	23.68	18.28	26.10	1.483
34 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	131.50	23.98	18.48	26.42	1.483
35% ADELA 7/8/83	132.00	24.28	18.68	26.74	1.483
35 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	132.50	24.58	18.88	27.06	1.483
36% ADELA 7/8/83	133.00	24.88	19.08	27.38	1.483
36 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	133.50	25.18	19.28	27.70	1.483
37% ADELA 7/8/83	134.00	25.48	19.48	28.02	1.483
37 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	134.50	25.78	19.68	28.34	1.483
38% ADELA 7/8/83	135.00	26.08	19.88	28.66	1.483
38 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	135.50	26.38	20.08	28.98	1.483
39% ADELA 7/8/83	136.00	26.68	20.28	29.30	1.483
39 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	136.50	26.98	20.48	29.62	1.483
40% ADELA 7/8/83	137.00	27.28	20.68	29.94	1.483
40 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	137.50	27.58	20.88	30.26	1.483
41% ADELA 7/8/83	138.00	27.88	21.08	30.58	1.483
41 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	138.50	28.18	21.28	30.90	1.483
42% ADELA 7/8/83	139.00	28.48	21.48	31.22	1.483
42 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	139.50	28.78	21.68	31.54	1.483
43% ADELA 7/8/83	140.00	29.08	21.88	31.86	1.483
43 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	140.50	29.38	22.08	32.18	1.483
44% ADELA 7/8/83	141.00	29.68	22.28	32.50	1.483
44 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	141.50	29.98	22.48	32.82	1.483
45% ADELA 7/8/83	142.00	30.28	22.68	33.14	1.483
45 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	142.50	30.58	22.88	33.46	1.483
46% ADELA 7/8/83	143.00	30.88	23.08	33.78	1.483
46 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	143.50	31.18	23.28	34.10	1.483
47% ADELA 7/8/83	144.00	31.48	23.48	34.42	1.483
47 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	144.50	31.78	23.68	34.74	1.483
48% ADELA 7/8/83	145.00	32.08	23.88	35.06	1.483
48 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	145.50	32.38	24.08	35.38	1.483
49% ADELA 7/8/83	146.00	32.68	24.28	35.70	1.483
49 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	146.50	32.98	24.48	36.02	1.483
50% ADELA 7/8/83	147.00	33.28	24.68	36.34	1.483
50 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	147.50	33.58	24.88	36.66	1.483
51% ADELA 7/8/83	148.00	33.88	25.08	36.98	1.483
51 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	148.50	34.18	25.28	37.30	1.483
52% ADELA 7/8/83	149.00	34.48	25.48	37.62	1.483
52 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	149.50	34.78	25.68	37.94	1.483
53% ADELA 7/8/83	150.00	35.08	25.88	38.26	1.483
53 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	150.50	35.38	26.08	38.58	1.483
54% ADELA 7/8/83	151.00	35.68	26.28	38.90	1.483
54 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	151.50	35.98	26.48	39.22	1.483
55% ADELA 7/8/83	152.00	36.28	26.68	39.54	1.483
55 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	152.50	36.58	26.88	39.86	1.483
56% ADELA 7/8/83	153.00	36.88	27.08	40.18	1.483
56 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	153.50	37.18	27.28	40.50	1.483
57% ADELA 7/8/83	154.00	37.48	27.48	40.82	1.483
57 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	154.50	37.78	27.68	41.14	1.483
58% ADELA 7/8/83	155.00	38.08	27.88	41.46	1.483
58 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	155.50	38.38	28.08	41.78	1.483
59% ADELA 7/8/83	156.00	38.68	28.28	42.10	1.483
59 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	156.50	38.98	28.48	42.42	1.483
60% ADELA 7/8/83	157.00	39.28	28.68	42.74	1.483
60 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	157.50	39.58	28.88	43.06	1.483
61% ADELA 7/8/83	158.00	39.88	29.08	43.38	1.483
61 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	158.50	40.18	29.28	43.70	1.483
62% ADELA 7/8/83	159.00	40.48	29.48	44.02	1.483
62 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	159.50	40.78	29.68	44.34	1.483
63% ADELA 7/8/83	160.00	41.08	29.88	44.66	1.483
63 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	160.50	41.38	30.08	44.98	1.483
64% ADELA 7/8/83	161.00	41.68	30.28	45.30	1.483
64 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	161.50	41.98	30.48	45.62	1.483
65% ADELA 7/8/83	162.00	42.28	30.68	45.94	1.483
65 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	162.50	42.58	30.88	46.26	1.483
66% ADELA 7/8/83	163.00	42.88	31.08	46.58	1.483
66 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	163.50	43.18	31.28	46.90	1.483
67% ADELA 7/8/83	164.00	43.48	31.48	47.22	1.483
67 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	164.50	43.78	31.68	47.54	1.483
68% ADELA 7/8/83	165.00	44.08	31.88	47.86	1.483
68 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	165.50	44.38	32.08	48.18	1.483
69% ADELA 7/8/83	166.00	44.68	32.28	48.50	1.483
69 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	166.50	44.98	32.48	48.82	1.483
70% ADELA 7/8/83	167.00	45.28	32.68	49.14	1.483
70 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	167.50	45.58	32.88	49.46	1.483
71% ADELA 7/8/83	168.00	45.88	33.08	49.78	1.483
71 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	168.50	46.18	33.28	50.10	1.483
72% ADELA 7/8/83	169.00	46.48	33.48	50.42	1.483
72 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	169.50	46.78	33.68	50.74	1.483
73% ADELA 7/8/83	170.00	47.08	33.88	51.06	1.483
73 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	170.50	47.38	34.08	51.38	1.483
74% ADELA 7/8/83	171.00	47.68	34.28	51.70	1.483
74 1/2% ADELA 7/8/83	171.50	47.98	34.48	52.02	1.483
75% ADELA 7/8/83	172.00	48.28	34		



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Andelsbanken	1984	4 Dec. 78	4 June 79	12 1/2%
U.A.B.F.	1981	5 Dec. 78	5 June 79	12 1/2%
S.O.F.T.E.	1984	7 Dec. 78	7 June 79	12 1/2%
U.B.A.F. (Min. 7 1/2%)	1982	7 Dec. 78	7 June 79	12 1/2%
Paribas	1980	11 Dec. 78	11 June 79	12 1/2%
Bank Handlowy	1981	12 Dec. 78	12 June 79	13 1/2%
Bankue Worms	1985	15 Dec. 78	15 June 79	12%
C.N.C.A.	1984	15 Dec. 78	15 June 79	12%
D.G. Bank Finance	1982	15 Dec. 78	15 June 79	12%
Long Term Cred. Bk.	1981	15 Dec. 78	15 June 79	12%
Creditanstalt Bkvn	1981	18 Dec. 78	15 June 79	12 1/2%
Naml. Westminster	1990	21 Dec. 78	21 June 79	12 1/2%
Urquijo Intl.	1981	21 Dec. 78	21 June 79	12 1/2%
Cred. Com. de France	1981	22 Dec. 78	22 June 79	12 1/2%
Hydrocarbons Bank	1982	22 Dec. 78	22 June 79	13 1/2%
Cred. Lyon. (Min 6 1/2%)	1983	24 Dec. 78	24 June 79	13%

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Privredna Banka	1985
Credit Commercial de France	1983
O.K.B.	1983
Adela Investment Co.	1983
Credit Commercial de France (Min. 7%)	1983
Credit National	1983
B.L.A.O.	1983
Indosuez	1981
Ljubljanska Banka	1985
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Bankue Nationale de Paris	1983
Bco de la Nacion Argentina	1983
Kansallis Osake Pankki	1983
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8 % Österreich 1973/B/81	101.30	7.60	7.90	15. 2.77-81 at 101.0
8 1/2% Österreich 1974/I/B/82	101.50	7.73	8.37	22.11.83-86 at 100.0
8 1/2% Österreich 1975/S/83	102.—	7.86	8.33	5. 3.76-83 at 100.0 to 101.0
8 1/2% Innsbruck 1974/B/82	101.75	7.84	8.35	19.11.75-82 at 100.5
8 1/2% Steyr-Daimler-Puch 1974/B/81	101.50	7.82	8.37	29.10.75-81 at 100.5

**maturity over 5 years**

8 1/2% Österreich 1976/S/86	104.—	7.94	8.17	20. 2.81-86 at 101.5 to 104.0
8 % Österreich 1976/S/II/B/86	100.25	7.94	7.98	22.11.83-86 at 100.0
8 % Österreich 1977/S/B/87	100.25	7.93	7.98	15. 2.82-87 at 100.0
8 % Ariberg Straßentunnel 1977/B/85	100.25	7.90	7.98	29. 7.80-85 at 100.0
8 % Wien 1973/88	101.—	7.98	7.92	15. 5.74-88 at 101.0 to 101.5
7 3/4% CA-BV 1977/II/C/92	100.—	7.74	7.75	15.10.78-82 at 100.0
8 % Export 1978/B/93	100.25	7.92	7.98	11. 4.82-85 at 100.0
8 1/2% Energie 1975/II/B+S/85	104.25	7.96	8.15	29.10.79-85 at 103.5
8 % Energie 1978/B/87	100.25	7.94	7.98	1. 3.83-87 at 100.0
8 % VÖEST 1977/B/86	100.25	7.94	7.98	15.11.82-86 at 100.0

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مكروان النجمل



# The Scottish thorn in Singer's side

BY LISA WOOD

THE LATE Mahatma Gandhi learned to sew on a Singer sewing machine and when he was in jail he exempted the sewing machine from his ban on Western machinery. "It is," he said, "one of the few useful things ever invented."

But now Singer of the U.S., for more than a century the leading developer of the sewing machine, is facing the culmination of problems which became apparent in 1975. The most acute of these has manifested itself at Clydebank, its 128-year-old enterprise in Scotland, which is the company's main manufacturing base for its overseas markets.

This morning the parent company is expected to make an important statement about the future of the Clydebank plant, which, with a history of poor labour relations and low productivity, has seen the development in the last six months of a deadlock between management and the workers about rationalisation plans.

In December, Singer threatened to close the plant after workers rejected proposals which had been revised by the company in the light of a union-commissioned consultants' report.

During the last 25 years there have been progressive cuts in the labour force at Clydebank which in 1954 employed 14,000 people and in 1964, in spite of cuts, and still Scotland's single largest employer of labour.

In June 1978, Clydebank employed 4,800 workers. It was, and still is, Singer's largest and oldest overseas manufacturing plant with its production critical to the company's world strategy. About four-fifths of its annual output is exported, with about 40 per cent of exports serving the U.S. market, in spite of strong Japanese and, more recently, Taiwanese competition.

According to Singer, the landed cost in the U.S. of a

domestic Clydebank machine is at least 20 per cent higher than that of a Japanese competitor. The plant is accommodated in an old building which at present does every process in sewing machine production, from metal casting to painting.

Last June Mr. Joe Flavin, chairman and chief executive of the U.S. multinational, announced that 2,800 of the 4,800 jobs at Clydebank were to be cut as part of a four-year plan to restructure the operation.

At his meeting with the Clydebank workers, who are represented by 14 unions, one of which has two members, he spared few punches. The factory has been operating at a deficit for the past three years, with a loss in 1977 of £2.6m. The industrial sewing unit of the plant, not known as profitable year in the 1970s.

## Blame

While laying some of the blame on his own company's doorstep, Mr. Flavin said the opportunity had existed for a positively motivated Clydebank workforce to improve efficiency and resolve union practices that impeded flexibility of the plant's operations.

Mr. Flavin said the facts led to only one conclusion—a phase-out industrial sewing machine production from Clydebank by 1981 and concentrate production at the Singer plant in New Jersey in the U.S. which he said, "was a more efficient location."

Industrial needle production was to be halted in favour of a greater concentration on household needles. Clydebank's self-sufficiency, he said, also under attack. Mr. Flavin said it was to be brought into closer contact with the three other Singer factories in Europe.

These are Bouvieres, near Paris, Monza, near Milan, and Ka-

ruhe in West Germany.

Clydebank, according to Mr. Flavin, was to be the main production centre for a new line of four models of high volume lightweight domestic sewing machines at a cost of £8m.

The plan was "the only way to save Clydebank," said Mr. Larry Neely, general manager at Clydebank after the announcement. Not so, replied the unions which commissioned in August a £75,000 study, two thirds paid for by the Government's Scottish Development Agency, from PA Management Consultants, to analyse the company's worldwide restructuring and propose an alternative strategy for Clydebank.

The study's proposals, which if implemented, would have saved more than 750 jobs, formed the basis for Singer's revised proposals, given in December, for putting an extra £2m into the plant and saving some industrial machine production. But the plans, which included proposals for a new work structure, sub-contracting of work and extra production were turned down by the workers last month—in spite of shop stewards' and union backing. Singer warned employees, in a circular, that it would close the factory unless the decision was reversed.

Mr. Hugh Swan, convenor at Clydebank said: "As far as the workforce was concerned, the conditions were unacceptable. We asked the workers for an agreement in principle only over negotiating positions for the next 15 months."

So what has happened at Clydebank? Is it an intransigent workforce with a management which has bent over backwards to keep Clydebank going or is it a factory, starved of capital investment, which is being abandoned by a multinational, keen to discard its old and unprofitable businesses?

During the last four years

Singer of the U.S. has seen dramatic changes and at present is struggling to introduce a rapid recovery programme. In 1953 sewing machine production accounted for 94 per cent of Singer's turnover. Twenty years later it accounted for 50 per cent but by 1977 it had risen again to 54 per cent of company sales. This period of diversification, said to be necessary because of Japanese inroads into the sewing machine industry, caused serious financial problems for the company. It was Mr. Joe Flavin, appointed in the mid 1970s to his present post, who was responsible for taking Singer out of low return diversification and back into its three main areas of business: sewing, consumer and government products. The last two include furniture, power tools, vacuum cleaners, aerospace and marine systems, electronics and educational products. This involved a rationalisation of plants worldwide.

A plant producing industrial sewing machines in West Germany was closed in 1976, with a loss of 600 jobs. The plant was bought by Singer UK for £1.5m and transferred to Clydebank where it contributed to Clydebank's production and balance sheet problems. Among the diversified interests which Singer abandoned was the international operations of Singer Business Machines which it sold to International Computers in 1976 and the U.S. side which it sold to TRW, a U.S. company after a £162m write-off.

A recovery programme began to take effect in 1978 and Singer's debt was reduced by over £10m in 1977 with another £34m scheduled to be paid off in 1978. This will leave the debt for its consolidated finance company.

But, according to Mr. Flavin last year, the foremost of

Singer's problems was that while internationally (excluding North America and Europe) the future for sewing machines was bright, the mature U.S. and European sewing markets were suffering from the effects of strenuous competition, high costs and selective consumers.

Sales of Singer UK, went from £38.6m in 1971 to £74.8m in 1977. Exports in 1977 were £16.2m against £15m in 1971, but after taxes, there was a loss of £1.1m in 1977 and this, says Singer, was "attributable directly to the losses in the manufacturing operations (Clydebank) of £2.6m after taxes." Clydebank went from an after-tax profit in 1971 of £0.7m to a loss in 1977 of £2.6m. And it was Clydebank which was the company's worldwide loss of \$3.4m on industrial machines in the first six months of 1978.

## Low-cost

Total industrial sewing machine production worldwide amounted to 400,000 units in 1977, of which Singer produced nearly 175,000 or 44 per cent. In the following 20 years worldwide production increased to 1.2m units of which Singer contributed a little over 100,000 units—only 10 per cent of the total. Japan now produces nearly 28 times as many industrial sewing machines as Clydebank, and has increased its world market share to 67 per cent through low-cost efficient production.

Demand for industrial sewing machines is estimated to increase at a rate of only between 1 and 2 per cent each year for the next four years. This would mean an increase of worldwide industrial machine sales from the 1.2m units achieved in 1977 to only 1.3m units in 1984.

Japan is the most cost-

efficient manufacturer of industrial sewing machines in the world, as well as being the export leader and the main user of industrial machines. The total world market is estimated to be worth more than Yen 100bn (\$500m).

The picture for domestic sewing machine demand is similar. The total market peaked in the early 1970s and since then has remained static or declined. Singer, which has a study group examining how best the company could take an alternative approach to selling domestic machines in developing countries, anticipates that at best the European market will remain flat and the U.S. market will continue to decline by 5 per cent a year.

At present Singer's domestic sewing plants are operating at only 61 per cent of capacity and are projected to reach only 54 per cent of capacity in 1982 after major changes to the lines so that they will be more competitive with Japanese machines. Mr. Flavin says that for Singer increased factory utilisation must remain the key to future profitability.

In 1978 Singer was operating at 34 per cent of capacity worldwide and 55 per cent at Clydebank. In industrial sewing machine manufacturing, many of the machines made at Clydebank are stored, not sold, according to Singer.

Singer says it is also suffering in the area of product costs. At Clydebank, for example, total costs for the Artisan machine (model 29K), over the past eight years, increased by 189 per cent while the UK retail price index grew by 150 per cent over the same period. Mr. Flavin says costs "are higher than Singer's competitors' selling prices." And costs for high volume domestic machines at Clydebank have gone up by an average of 20 per cent a year since 1973.

## WHO WAS TO BLAME AT CLYDEBANK?

Last June, MR. JOE FLAVIN, chairman and chief executive of Singer's U.S. multinational, said: "The first and most important thing we should discuss is the mistakes that Singer has made in running Clydebank. We've made many, obvious ones include not giving Clydebank a proper product mission on a long-term basis, having too many models resulting in a manufacturing proliferation of product that does not allow for the most efficient manufacturing, and allowing Clydebank product costs to reach an uncompetitive position. This situation has been reached through our abdication of responsibility as managers to take appropriate action to reduce costs and increase employee efficiency..."

"But we have not been alone in contributing to the lack of viability of Clydebank as a long-term manufacturing source. The opportunity existed and continues to exist for a positively motivated workforce to increase efficiency and resolve union practices that impeded flexibility of operation—such as the arbitrary seniority definitions, barriers to the transferability of workers between parts of the factory, resistance to outside sub-contracting, and an inefficient pay plan that does not produce products at a competitive cost."

Later, MR. HUGH SWAN, trade union convenor at Clydebank, said: "The key to Clydebank's problems and survival is investment. There has been a lack of investment here since the 1960s, after the boom years of the 1940s and 1950s. Singer diversified then so such an extent that it became clipped out."

The unions at Clydebank have blamed this situation on a lack of capital investment by the company, a view which was partly backed by the PA survey. Most of the machines are made in a 70-year-old six storey building and much of the machinery is more than 50 years old.

This, said PA, has led to several major problems for management and the workforce, including high maintenance costs, high transportation costs of moving materials between floors and high operating costs because machines are incapable of running at standard speeds. The low productivity which resulted, said PA, was aggravated by a payment system which failed sufficiently to motivate the labour force.

The UK company at a time of deteriorating trading and rising costs has also become seriously undercapitalised.

At the end of 1977 the total debt of Singer UK (which consists of Clydebank, a marketing division and two very small manufacturing operations) was almost as great as shareholders' funds of £16.2m. The financial position would have been worse had it not been for what appears to be a clear decision some years ago to run down the business. Singer UK has been consistently adding less to fixed assets than

it has written off in the form of depreciation. And in spite of the impact of inflation, it has committed little new cash to working capital. The U.S. parent did not provide any new equity in the period 1973-1977 and in 1975, when the U.S. multinational was in very serious trouble, Singer UK paid out £2.4m in dividends although it only made a net profit of £0.3m.

In late 1976 Singer introduced a new machine—the programmable Centurion—on to the market. It has been heralded as "the biggest breakthrough in sewing machines for a decade." Total sales of the Centurion is the most advanced machine, there is in the industrial market. It can remember up to 70 programmes. But it will not be made at Clydebank; it will be made in the U.S.

Perhaps the present frustration of Singer is best illustrated by a comment of a Singer executive last week when he said: "There is no plant quite like Clydebank. It has such an entrenched system. There are more than 40 people, for example, doing nothing all week but count out cash because the workers like their money in envelopes and refuse to open bank accounts. That's not 1978, that is 1984."

## Letters to the Editor

### Government borrowing

From Mr. R. Nottage

Sir—Mr. Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, defends the institution's investment policies against the charge that they refuse to buy Government stocks until they have forced up the rates of interest on them, and says that "if the Government did not need to borrow so much then interest rates would be lower" (Jan. 5).

Some of the trouble that the Government creates for itself comes from its extraordinary policy of funding the pension liabilities of the local authorities and nationalised industries. It is well known that pension funds do not greatly like fixed interest stocks, and much prefer to acquire assets offering prospects of growth in income and capital value. This preference is illustrated by the investment policies of the nationalised industries' pension funds.

Recent reports show their fixed interest investments to be the following proportions of their total assets:

Water	32
Airways	23
Steel	15
Coal	15
Post Office	14
Electricity	13
Rail	8

From the figures in these reports it can be inferred that the pension funds of the major nationalised industries have total assets with a current market value of some £7bn, of which about £1bn, or 15 per cent, is in fixed interest stocks, but not all of which are Government stocks.

The funding of public sector pensions swells the public sector borrowing requirement, at least in the present era when ever may be the consequences in the dim and distant future. In its evidence to the Wilson Committee, the Treasury estimated (para. 17) that the extra cost of funding these pensions compared with the cost of meeting them by the pay-as-you-go method is currently running at £1bn a year.

Assuming that local authorities' investment policies do not differ markedly from those in the nationalised industries, the Chancellor of the Exchequer can be sure that each year the public sector pension funds will take up only about £150m of the £1bn stock he needs to sell to keep them in the style of life to which they have become accustomed. To encourage them to buy more of his stock and so upset the preferred compositions of their portfolios he must offer them lavish rates of interest.

Moreover, the pension funds will not usually be as anxious to buy their £150m of Government stock as the Chancellor will be to raise the whole of his £1bn—which he must do in a matter of months or suffer dire consequences. Thus, in funding public sector pensions, the Chancellor makes himself a weak seller in a world of strong buyers of his own creating.

Raymond Nottage, Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.

of the challenge in industry. If he has read David Cooksey's article of the same day, he will know why he requested is not likely to be answered.

Any employee of more than six months' standing becomes entitled by industrial relations legislation. No employee of less than 12 months' standing is likely to have any conception of what a large industrial organisation is about. Nowadays employers employ those whom they are pretty sure can have a long-term future with them; for they know that taking on anyone for less than six months is pointless—and taking them for longer offers a sure route to an expensive ride in the industrial tribunals.

All this of course is a great pity for countless thousands of youngsters—not merely graduates. But we have designed our industrial structure to look after those who have jobs, not those who have not—a circumstance that must have some of the founding fathers of the trade union movement turning in their graves as they contemplate what those who have inherited their mantle have done with it.

David Green, Rhyl or Harding, Castle Morris, Nr. Haverfordwest.

### Sick pay schemes

From the Managing Director, Kilmarnock General

Sir—The gain for employees under sick pay schemes (Eric Short, January 3) is limited to any tax refunds which might be received because the savings under such a scheme would pass to the employer in the form of reduced premium or cost of operating their own sick pay arrangements.

From the employees point of view where an existing employer-funded sick pay scheme is to be replaced by an insured scheme one must not overlook the fact that due to the lower PAYE earnings there may be a loss of earnings related pension benefits as well as future National Insurance sickness benefits. As the major cost of operating a sick pay policy arises in respect of 4 weeks or less there is a strong argument from the point of the employee in restricting the benefit under the insured sick pay entitlement to much less than the 12 months period indicated. The premium on employees who are treated as higher earners will be taxed as a benefit in kind.

Insured sick pay schemes have been sold for many years to take advantage of the saving in income-tax but since the Social Security Act 1975 and the resultant change in the payment of National Insurance contributions to the PAYE system this has given a further impetus to the financial advantages of an insurance scheme.

There is no difficulty in setting up and administering an insured sick pay scheme for any number of employees. What I believe Eric Short is referring to is probably the employee schemes whereby the employer pays the actual cost of operating the sick pay scheme but uses an insured scheme to pay the benefit solely to avoid income-tax and National Insurance contributions. In these cases insurers' administrative costs reduce from about 25 per cent under a conventional scheme to

74 per cent making the net savings up to nearer 30 per cent rather than the 50 per cent quoted.

The problem of absenteeism is particularly relevant where schemes have been set up which fail to take into account adequately the untaxed state sickness benefits and income-tax refunds which may be payable.

Peter J. Dalby, White Horse Lane, Canterbury, Kent.

### Windsor cordon

From the Chairman, Environment Committee, Berkshire County Council

Sir—I refer to the letter from Mr. R. K. Turner (January 4) in response to your article "Juggernauts at bay" (December 29). I do not wish to comment on the merits or otherwise of the Windsor Cordon at present, as detailed evaluation is still being carried out. It is worth stressing that the scheme is experimental and Berkshire County Council will consider whether to make it permanent when all facts are available for consideration.

The Freight Transport Association has expressed concern regarding the High Court decision which (to quote) "gives total administrative control to local authorities to ban commercial vehicles 'as they see fit' and circumvents the right of access for delivery vehicles" (sic). That is not so: the Heavy Commercial Vehicles (Controls and Regulations) Act 1973 imposed a duty on highway authorities to identify the main lorry movements and those areas suffering environmental damage, and then to formulate proposals to minimise the environmental impact of such movements. In responding to the Act, Berkshire County Council carried out an extensive consultation exercise over two years led by Mr. John Wardle, senior assistant county surveyor, involving the public and other interested bodies and organisations including the FTA. As a direct result of this exercise, modifications were made to the original proposals, including a permit system to serve the needs of the vast majority of local deliveries.

It should be stressed that the object of the experiment is to prohibit the movement of "through" heavy traffic in excess of 5 tons unladen weight, and due to the success of the permit system it is doubtful if local deliveries are more than marginally affected. Thus the accusation that Berkshire has ignored the interests of HCV operators is specious. In addition, it is important to note that the Secretary of State retains powers to quash any restriction made by a highway authority and therefore such powers are not, as inferred by Mr. Turner, autonomous.

In deciding to implement the Windsor Cordon experiment, Berkshire County Council fully considered potential disadvantages as well as advantages and acknowledged that considerable extra cost to industry would be incurred.

It must also be acknowledged that in seeking to improve payload by using ever larger vehicles, industry must also face the fact that such vehicles may not be appropriate for use

on all roads and therefore potential financial savings due to using such vehicles may be lost, then anticipated. (Which roads are or are not suitable for particular vehicles will undoubtedly provide an area of disagreement between interested parties, but I believe the highway authority (subject to the overriding powers of the Secretary of State) is better able to deal with this difficult and sensitive problem, and to seek a balance between the needs of industry and protection of the environment.

R. J. Simmonds, Woodlands Farm, Cookham, Bucks, Maidenhead, Berks.

### Cross-Channel links

From the Chairman, European Ferries

Sir—Sir Bruce White (January 4) raises again the possibility of a fixed Channel link. The suggestion which has been raised regularly for the last 200 years is based on the false assumption that existing cross-Channel facilities are inadequate to meet the demand and that a fixed link would provide a better and more economic solution. The facts are as follows:

Channel ferries and hovercraft even in the peak season do not average more than 50 per cent loading. There is, therefore, clearly sufficient capacity to meet the public's demand and furthermore unlike a fixed link the present methods are completely flexible and can be expanded to fit the market.

At the time of the last Channel Tunnel study the final output cost of the tunnel was reliably estimated to be £1.5bn. Since those figures were calculated in 1974, however, rates of inflation, construction cost and interest have greatly exceeded predictions then made. If the 1974 proposal had gone ahead the final cost in 1980 would have been more than £2.5bn. Commercially it would have been quite impossible for the tunnel to compete with a capital cost 10 times greater than that of its competitors.

Much of the benefit claimed for the tunnel and the belief that it would scoop the cross-Channel market rests on the claimed time advantage. This does not reconcile with the fact that the hovercraft system, which is faster than the proposed rail system, is still in a minority position on the market. The advantages of the present system are that it is entirely flexible, can be expanded and altered to meet changing needs, is cheaper, and is environmentally much less damaging than a fixed link since the traffic can be spread to areas as far apart as Southampton and Felixstowe.

Lastly, I follow my invariable practice by declaring my interest. I am the chairman of a company which operates cross-Channel ferries and your readers will no doubt take that into account in considering my comments. How refreshing it would be if those connected with the construction and civil engineering industry similarly declared their interest when publicly giving support to a fixed link. I have never yet known one to do so.

K. D. Wickenden, 4th Floor, Trafalgar House, 11, Waterloo Place, SW1.

## Today's Events

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Opposition leader, speaks at Association of British Chambers of Commerce lunch, Savoy Hotel, London, on industry, commerce and pay policy.

British Rail Southern Region train drivers' strike.

National Economic Development Council monthly meeting.

Trades Union Congress economic committee meets.

Congress House, London.

Civil Aviation Authority public hearing on applications to develop passenger and cargo services from Stansted Airport, Essex.

General strike called in Nicaragua to protest against regime of President Somoza.

Mr. Warren Christopher, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, starts two-day visit to Turkey to discuss bilateral issues and emergency funding.

Italian Government publishes three-year economic plan.

German steelworkers ballot on ending strike action.

Canada and U.S. negotiate on maritime disputes.

Sweden's budget for fiscal 1979 published.

Sotheby's sale of Eastern rugs and carpets.

Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, speaks on the error of pacifism, at St. Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall, 1.15 pm.

Sir Kenneth Cork, Lord Mayor of London, attends Chancellors' Company lunch, Gresham Street.

Official statistics.

Treasury publishes Central Government financial transactions (including borrowing requirements) for December.

Third-quarter figures for gross

domestic product; personal income; expenditure and saving.

COMPANY RESULTS

Final dividend: Eurotherm International, McCorquodale and Co., M and G Dual Trust, Westland Aircraft.

Interim dividends: Astra Industrial Group, Peter Black Holdings, Hollis Group, H. and R. Johnson-Richards Tiles, Henry Wigfall and Sons.

COMPANY MEETINGS

Duple International, Clifton Arms, Lytham, Lancs, 12.30. Fenner, Queen's Hotel, Leeds, 12.30. Stockholders' investment Trust, Winchester House, 100 Old Broad Street, EC, 12.45.



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December 1978



## RFD well down at £1m after first six months

ALTHOUGH TURNOVER was higher at £9.7m against £8.3m, profits before tax of RFD Group slumped from £1.46m to £1.05m for the half-year to September 30, 1978.

Mr. D. R. B. Myers, the chairman, warns that although second half results will be better than the first six months, full year profits are expected to be lower than last time, when a record £3.45m pre-tax was achieved.

Some parts of the group traded satisfactorily, he says, but sales were well below forecast in its inflatable companies, RFD Systems Engineering and Perseverance Mill.

Its inflatable companies are suffering the full effect of the depression in shipping and shipbuilding. RFD Systems was badly affected by delayed placing of expected contracts by third world countries, and Perseverance experienced a sharp fall in sales of industrial fabrics.

The group has also been affected by the low level of demand from the UK Ministry of Defence, while appropriate action has been taken to contain overhead expenditure.

	1978	1977
Turnover	9,718	8,330
Trading profit	1,067	1,457
Interest payable	17	12
Profit before tax	1,050	1,445
UK tax	371	561
Overseas tax	1	8
Minorities	7	1
Exchange loss	27	347
Attributable profit	649	824
Preference dividend	2	2
Ordinary dividend	547	883
Retained	547	883

\* Revalued in accordance with present accounting policies. † Reversible.

The promise of a good start to the year in the form of strong order books carried forward from the previous year was not fulfilled, Mr. Myers states.

But he adds that in recent weeks, order books in most parts of the group have once more strengthened.

With stated mid-year earnings down from 8.95p to 4.81p per 10p share, the interim dividend increased to 0.7p (0.8p) net and the Board expects to recommend the maximum increase permitted by present controls—last year's final was 0.985p.

Half-yearly turnover included

### HIGHLIGHTS

Haslemere Estates breaks the ice on this year's round of rights issues with a £11.7m cash call backed up with a forecast 20 per cent profits rise and 30 per cent dividend increase. Lex also looks at the latest banking figures which are very much in line with expectations. The petrochemical, plastics and fibre industries are currently pushing through substantial price increases on the back of the recent rise in naphtha prices—30 per cent in the last six months—and Lex examines the companies' ability to hold higher prices in the face of considerable over capacity. Elsewhere there are buoyant figures from Ratners and Halma but sluggish results from RFD.

"useful" contributions from small acquisitions made last year but these have not yet contributed to group profits after allowance has been made for the costs of financing acquisition. They are expected to do so however before long.

Cash balances have been eroded by the shortfall in expected profits and prompter demands for tax payments by the Inland Revenue.

### comment

With a 22 per cent drop in first half profits, RFD Group is heading for its first profit downturn since the rather traumatic loss recorded in 1973-74. The size of the shortfall is difficult to determine as there is a possibility that potential orders for military software will be turned into definite sales before the end of the second half. These could narrow the gap considerably. The slowness of the formal placing of the orders is one of the factors restricting first-half figures. We

believe that the inclusion of some acquisitions, stripping out the new subsidiaries there is just a marginal improvement in sales value. Profits are slightly ahead but margins are being hit by the current recession in the shipping industry, a major market for inflatable equipment. The shares closed 2p down at 53p giving a prospective yield of 4.6 per cent.

## Chaddesley midterm upsurge

For the half year ended September 30, 1978, Chaddesley Investments achieved a surplus of £200,039 compared with £6,074 before tax of £184,756 (nil).

The directors point out that for reasons connected with the recent merger with Greycoat Estates Investments, the first half surplus is not indicative of the level likely to be achieved in the second six months.

The first half figure is after deducting £155,404 in respect of pre-acquisition profits of subsidiaries and is after total charges and interest of £12,637 (£15,596).

The board continues to strengthen links with the group's bankers, insurance companies, pension funds and other city institutions.

The provision of finance for every scheme is carefully considered with the aim of securing the method appropriate to the particular project and, wherever possible, ensuring the maximum retention of future growth.

The policy is to undertake the development of first class office commercial and industrial buildings with a commitment to high standards of design and construction enabling the group to attract first class tenants at good rents for completed developments.

The directors continue to examine new propositions and look forward to steady growth.

## Ratners tops £0.5m at halfway: sees good year

PROFITS BEFORE tax of Ratners (Jewellers) in the first half to October 6, 1978, increased from £420,969 to £534,591, including a loss in the Netherlands of £48,398.

The directors again point out that due to the seasonal nature of the trade, the greater part of profits are earned in the second half. Since the end of the first half, sales have continued at a high level and the board looks forward to a satisfactory increase on last year's profits of £1.58m.

First-half UK profits were 33 per cent higher on a turnover increased from £5.83m to £7.32m, an improvement of 25.8 per cent. In addition there was a surplus arising on the sale and leaseback of a property amounting to £233,340. Total turnover rose from £5.94m to £7.6m.

In the context of last September's rights issue, the Treasury has agreed to an increase in total dividends for the current financial year from £0.2266p to 0.2345p. Accordingly the interim dividend is being raised from an equivalent 0.2275p to 0.2375p on increased capital.

Mr. L. M. Ratner, chairman, and Mrs. Ratner and Mr. J. M. Ratner, Mr. G. I. Ratner and Mr. M. Hussain have waived their entitlement to the larger part of their dividend amounting to £31,987.

### comment

First half results from Ratners are exactly what the market was expecting, with profits showing a 27 per cent advance. Stripping out new branches, the sales rise is just over a quarter, compared with an overall market increase of around 18 per cent for the period. At the moment the only headline is in Holland where the company has opened six branches. There, difficult trading conditions and Ratners' familiarity with Dutch jewellery fashions could result in a further loss for the second half. But at home conditions have been buoyant, particularly over Christmas, although trading has apparently not been at the previous year's record levels.

Nevertheless, with the additional outlets, at least £1.1m pre-tax should be possible for the full year. On a current cost basis this level the shares, at 73p, are on a prospective p/e of 14.2 (fully taxed) while the yield is 4.9 per cent. This is roughly in line with its competition.



Mr. Leslie Ratner, chairman of Ratners (Jewellers) outside one of the company's Oxford Street shops. Profits on UK sales are one-third up over the first six months.

## Dubilier on course for further advance

ORDERS, SALES and profits of Dubilier are all up in the first two months of the current year against the same period last year, says Mr. R. A. Wheeler, the chairman, in his annual statement.

As reported on December 14, pre-tax profits of the group, which makes components for the electronics industry, rose 34 per cent to a record £1.1m for the year ended October 1, 1978.

An expansion of the workforce by 12.5 per cent coupled with another year of substantial capital investment, at £535,000, helped boost turnover 18 per cent to £10.19m.

The chairman says this level of capital expenditure will continue in the current year, both to increase capacity of existing products and to develop new products for home and overseas markets.

Exports, up 43 per cent to £1.3m, now represent nearly 13 per cent of revenue and with it the main group companies doing well, overseas business is being expanded, especially in Europe.

An additional capacitor pro-

duct line, continued build-up of the metal film resistor, entry into the potentiometer and trimmer field and introduction of new connector and fuse products resulted in an increase in stocks and work in progress, Mr. Wheeler reports.

The directors anticipate that the benefit from this planned additional financial commitment will provide the basis for increased sales revenue in the current year.

New projects under development gave added confidence for the future, says the chairman. Under a licensing agreement with the UKAEA's Culham Laboratory, the company has booked its first miniature ion sources order. Metal sprayer development continues and steady progress is being made.

The potential continues to look promising, he adds.

The resale and distribution division had another growth year and increased sales to the company's authorised distributor network were particularly encouraging.

AN INCREASE in first half results is reported by Halma and the directors are confident that pre-tax profit for the year to March 31, 1979 will exceed last year's record £544,000.

The forecast is subject to there being no major deterioration in the economy, but the Board is confident the group can look forward to a long period of sustained growth and increasing profits.

Turnover for the half year rose from £4.58m to £5.14m and pre-tax profits were £510,273 compared with £408,661, an increase of 26 per cent. After tax of £265,342 (£209,904), earnings per share are shown at 2.38p against 1.96p.

The interim dividend is effectively held at 0.53p and a final of 0.208p (equal to 0.1327p) is expected. To this will be added any further dividend permitted under the legislation which now allows dividend increases in line with increases in dividend cover.

First half net profits amounted to £244,931 against £193,757. There is also to be added minorities of £1,572 (nil) and extraordinary items of £35,549 against £2,737.

The group makes safety systems, fire and environmental control equipment and specialised engineering equipment.

comment

Halma's policy of concentrating on more profitable activities is clearly paying off. First-half profit margins have inched up by a point to nearly 10 per cent, compared with 2.3 per cent four years ago. Most of the running is being made by the company's health and safety equipment.

With the new legislation and union demands for better environments. For example sales of mobile fume extractors have jumped by 60 per cent. Halma has also won its first big contract for fire ventilation equipment, with its early start in the field, it is well placed to benefit from overseas orders as more countries raise their standards.

To this end Halma has located subsidiaries in France and Holland. But in the meantime its growth rate cannot be expected to match the gains of recent years. Helped by a lower interest charge (the overdraft has been cut by the sale of surplus property) Halma is on target for around £1.1m for the year—a 51 per cent increase, compared with a 60 per cent rise last year. The share price, at 41p, is being held back by the low yield, which, assuming a 10 per cent rise, stands at 2.7 per cent. The prospective p/e is around 8.

At the year-end, cash and short term deposits were lower at £1.59m (£2.59m) and bank loans and overdrafts were up at £2.58m (£1.37m), but a reduction in medium and long-term borrowings left the net increase in borrowings at £1.84m (£3.57m). The net dividend is raised to 6.53p (5.94p) per 25p share.

Sales and operating profit of £5.2m (£4.6m) were split as to the UK £3.1m (£2.1m) and £2.1m (£2.5m); rest of Europe £2.7m (£2.3m) and £0.75m (£1.4m) and elsewhere £13.8m (£14m) and £1.29m (£1.8m). UK exports, including intra-group sales, were up from £16.2m to £20.8m.

Meeting, Birmingham, on February 8 at 12.30 p.m.

### BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available as to whether the sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on the year's timetable.

TODAY  
Interim—Astra Industrial, Pearle, Bichsel, Hordley, Keweenaw, Johnson, Richards, Tiles, Henry Wigfall, Flashes, Eurochem International, Ley's, Flashes and Engineering, M & G, Trust, McConquodale, Westland, Aircraft.

FUTURE DATES  
Interim—Commercial Bank of Australia, Feb. 22; Halma Properties, Jan. 16; Provincial Cities Trust, Jan. 16; Regional Properties, Jan. 16; Stainberg, Feb. 2; Stewart, Feb. 2; Stock Conversion, Jan. 16; Swan Hunter, Jan. 16; Whittles, Jan. 16.

Final—Countrywide Properties, Jan. 16; Kenning Motor, Jan. 16; Whittles, Jan. 16.

## Lynton first half downturn

A DOWNTURN in taxable surplus from £556,470 to £465,525 is reported by Lynton Holdings, the property investment and development group, for the half-year to September 25, 1978.

Profits were affected by a fall in deposit interest rates, compared with the previous year's same period, and the charging to revenue of interest in respect of certain properties previously regarded as held for, or in course of, development.

After tax of £242,226 (£229,366), net income fell from £267,106 to £242,226. Development outgoings, less tax, of £457,925 (£479,015) have been met by a transfer from capital reserves.

Stated earnings are down from 3.04p to 2.55p per 20p share. The net interim dividend is kept at 1.5p and the directors expect to maintain last year's total dividend of 2.55p, which was paid from £1.1m pre-tax surplus.

SWAN HUNTER

Swan Hunter announces, in connection with the proposed scheme of reconstruction, that notices of dissent have been received in respect of some 42,000 shares representing less than 1 per cent of the issued capital.

A further extraordinary general meeting has already been convened for January 12, to approve the resolution putting the company into voluntary liquidation.

### DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corresponding dividend	Total dividend	Total last year
Best and May	0.95	March 1	0.96	—	3.08
Halma	0.53	Feb. 19	0.53	—	0.97
Investors Capital	1.2	March 15	1.2	—	1.55
Lynton Hlgs.	1.2	April 2	—	—	2.43
Ratners (Jewellers)	0.94	March 9	0.93	—	0.49
RFD Group	0.7	March 1	0.6	—	1.8
Winterbottom Trust	3.6	March 13	3	—	4.6

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated.

\* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡ Final of 0.208p forecast.

## DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND IN 1979

	FT INDEX	ICNL Naps
1957	+ 7%	+ 38%
1958	+ 34%	+ 54%
1959	+ 11%	+ 112%
1960	- 1%	+ 10%
1961	- 1%	+ 34%
1962	- 6%	+ 1%
1963	+ 14%	+ 36%
1964	+ 12%	+ 10%
1965	+ 1%	+ 16%
1966	+ 11%	+ 22%
1967	+ 24%	+ 42%
1968	+ 29%	+ 58%
1969	+ 20%	+ 22%
1970	+ 18%	+ 22%
1971	+ 39%	+ 56%
1972	+ 5%	+ 74%
1973	+ 32%	+ 10%
1974	+ 32%	+ 27%
1975	+ 131%	+ 200%
1976	+ 4%	+ 6%
1977	+ 35%	+ 73%
1978	+ 3%	+ 5%
AVERAGE	+ 8.3%	+ 38.4%

\* Based on the 1957-1978 period.

At the beginning of every year the IC News Letter selects a number of shares (generally six) for capital gain over the following twelve months—its Star Nap Selections.

The table above shows the cumulative 12-month performance of each year's Nap Selections over the last 22 years, including that of the 1978 Selections. If you had invested £1,000 in the 1957 Nap Selections and reinvested the proceeds at the end of each year in the new annual selections, your initial £1,000 would now be worth £218,444 (before gains tax and expenses) against a mere £2,138 if you had invested in the FT index and £4,440 if you had managed to keep pace with inflation.

In addition to its traditional Nap Selections, the IC News Letter gives regular weekly recommendations. The overall record shows that its recommendations have beaten the index by a wide percentage margin averaging into double figures on an annual basis. The News Letter also has an impressive track record in its general market and selling advice over the years, as supported by the many appreciative letters received from subscribers, and it has extended this to other important investment areas.

The IC News Letter, published every Wednesday, is available on postal subscription only. Use the coupon below to order your subscription now, starting with the 1979 Nap Selections.

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## dubilier

### Record Profits—Up 34% Exports—Up 43%

Salient points from Annual Report for year ending 1st October, 1978.

- This was another good year for Dubilier. The main Group companies all did well and we have a number of new projects which give us added confidence for the future.
- Group profits before tax reached a record £1.1m.
- Turnover increased by 18% to £10.2m and exports reached 12.7% of sales at £1.3m.
- Final dividend recommended 0.5708p making a total dividend of 1.1032p per share maximum permitted (1977: 0.988p).
- Earnings per share 2.11p up 28.7%.
- Orders, sales and profits are all up in the first two months of the current year.

The Dubilier Group manufactures a wide range of electronic components, including fuses, resistors, capacitors, connectors, potentiometers and trimmers.

Annual Report may be obtained from The Secretary, Dubilier Limited, Chaucer Trading Estate, Launceston Road, Exeter, Devon EX6 6TU.

## halma

Pre-tax Profit + 26% Profit/share + 22%

Profit for year will exceed last year's record... Group can look forward to a long period of sustained growth and increasing profits

David Barber, Chairman

Half year to September:	1976	1977	1978
Sales turnover (£000s)	3,643	4,579	5,139
Pre-tax profit (£000s)	170	404	510
Pre-tax profit per share	1.72p	4.07p	4.97p

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Safety and Environmental Control  
Specialised Engineering

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Tel 01-205 0038

## Serck still seeks foothold in U.S. to expand valve business

THOUGH Serck's attempt to buy a foothold in the American specialist valve industry for \$25m, fell through in November last year, the group's directors will continue to seek further opportunities for expansion of its valve business in the U.S., says Mr. R. G. Martin, the chairman. Meanwhile Serck Services, which began trading in the Middle East during 1977-78, has identified further interesting opportunities which could lead to expansion in that area, he adds.

The group, whose interests include heat exchangers, control equipment and vehicle exchange parts, invested a record £5m in fixed assets, principally on re-equipment over the year. Of the total £4m was spent in the UK, in June it acquired Wilson

Foundry (Holdings) in a deal worth £7.5m.

As known, negotiations aimed at buying the Alroy specialist valve division of Walworth Company, one of the country's major valve makers and subsidiary of Atlantic Richfield, were begun in July. The U.S. company, however, decided that the separation of the activities implicit in the proposals was impracticable.

For the year to September 30, 1978, taxable profit of Serck slumped from £9.32m to £5.15m on sales of £98m (£73m) in a depressed market for many of its products—as reported December 14. On a current cost basis net profit showed a 70 per cent reduction compared with the historical figure, Mr. Martin states.

At the year-end, cash and short term deposits were lower at £1.59m (£2.59m) and bank loans and overdrafts were up at £2.58m (£1.37m), but a reduction in medium and long-term borrowings left the net increase in borrowings at £1.84m (£3.57m). The net dividend is raised to 6.53p (5.94p) per 25p share.

Sales and operating profit of £5.2m (£4.6m) were split as to the UK £3.1m (£2.1m) and £2.1m (£2.5m); rest of Europe £2.7m (£2.3m) and £0.75m (£1.4m) and elsewhere £13.8m (£14m) and £1.29m (£1.8m). UK exports, including intra-group sales, were up from £16.2m to £20.8m.

Meeting, Birmingham, on February 8 at 12.30 p.m.

### NEW LIFE BUSINESS

## Yorkshire-General Life passes £1bn mark for first time

NET NEW sums assured written in 1978 by Yorkshire General Life Assurance Company, the life company in the General Accident Group, topped £1bn for the first time, at £1,007,271,000, up from £794m in 1977 to £1,007m last year.

New annual premiums were 24 per cent higher at £9.1m compared with £7.6m in the previous year. New annual premiums on ordinary life business rose by 17 per cent from £3.5m to £4.1m. Traditional with-profits business rose by 46 per cent to £1.9m, but this was offset by a 40 per cent drop in non-profit business to £0.6m.

Business in pure protection contracts—the company's traditional leader in term assurance—was buoyant—with a 43 per cent rise to £1m on non-mortgage business and 20 per cent to £0.6m on mortgage protection contracts.

Pension business annual premiums were 30 per cent higher at £5.2m against £4m in 1977, with group pensions business 48 per cent higher at £0.8m and self-employed pension contracts up 30 per cent at £1.1m.

Single-premium and annuity business rose by 52 per cent from £4.2m to £6.4m, with almost all this growth coming from the

company's new capital investment schemes and growth bonds launched during 1978. Sales of these products amounted to £2m.

Mr. Norman Graham, assistant general manager of Yorkshire General, stated that the return to expansion envisaged at the beginning of last year had materialised and there had been notable increases in both new sums assured and new annual premiums. For the current year, he expected a continued upward trend in all areas of business except new group pensions where there would likely be a period of consolidation.

A rise of 19.7 per cent in new annual premiums for its worldwide life business is reported for 1978 by Commercial Union Assurance. These rose from £35m in 1977 to £41.9m last year. The figures have been converted at the exchange rates ruling at the end of the relevant year. But since there was very little change between rates at the end of 1977 and the end of last year these figures show the real growth in business. Single premiums however showed a 8.7 per cent rise from £28.5m to £30.9m. New sums assured rose by 20 per cent from £1.9bn to £2.3bn and new annuities per annum remained virtually unchanged at £75.4m.

Business in the UK was particularly buoyant with new annual premiums advancing 41 per cent from £12.3m to £17.2m, with single premiums virtually unchanged at £4.7m.

Both individual and group pensions business were active last year in the UK. New annual premiums on ordinary life, individual pensions and other annuity business were 37 per cent up on the year at £3.5m compared with £2.5m, with executive pensions, self-employed pensions and last cost endowments connected with mortgage repayment showing useful rises. A similar growth pattern was experienced in the company pension field following the introduction of the new state pension scheme with new annual premiums of £8.7m compared with £5m in 1977.

Record new life business was written in 1978 by the English Insurance Company, a member of the







# Averys board turns down GEC merger approach

The Board of Averys, the weighing machine and measuring instrument company, yesterday rejected the possibility of a take-over by the General Electric Company.

On November 30, GEC announced that it had opened talks with Averys on the possibility of a £250 cash offer for Averys' ordinary shares, which would be worth a total of £38m.

Since then, executives of Averys have had what are described as friendly talks with GEC to explore the implications of a possible take-over.

At its meeting yesterday, the Averys board rejected the take-over idea, because it believed the company's future could be best served by remaining independent in order to maintain the widest access to component suppliers and to its customers.

A statement from Averys says: "As an independent company, Averys has been able to expand into new markets wherever profitable opportunities have arisen and it has not been constrained by lack of technical or financial resources. Averys is at present well advanced in the application of electronics to weighing equipment and has the ability to maintain the necessary development."

GEC's strategy, in exploring the possibility of a take-over of Averys was to diversify into the retail and factory measurement industry. It believes weighing equipment as well as office machinery will tend to become integrated into total systems involving computers and telecommunications.

GEC has recently made an agreed £32m bid for A. B. Dick, the U.S. office equipment company, and is expected to make some further acquisitions this year.

The Averys board's rejection of the GEC suggested bid still

leaves open the possibility of co-operation between the two companies on a "normal commercial basis."

Mr. Nicholas Holland corporate finance manager with J. Henry Schroder Wagg, advisers to Averys, said: "The ball is now in GEC's court, after considering all the implications, we have said 'No' to a merger."

Last night GEC would not comment on whether it intends to go ahead with a bid or to increase its offer. A company spokesman would only say: "We are considering the matter."

## Guthrie slips 7p on selling in Far East

By James Bartholomew

Shares of Guthrie Corporation, which is the object of a bid approach by Sime Darby, fell 7p to 430p in late dealings yesterday, reportedly, on selling from the Far East.

However, in London it is widely assumed that the price of 425p per share, which Sime Darby has mentioned, is only a starting point. A figure of 45p is recorded as one at which Sime Darby might have a more reasonable chance of success.

Guthrie has some loyal shareholders who will need a lot of convincing. The biggest shareholders of Guthrie are trusts of the late Mr. K. M. G. Anderson, with about 16 per cent, and M. and G. the unit trust group, with just over 11 per cent. They provide the nucleus for those who hold Guthrie in high regard and will only let it go at a full price.

On the other side are the Far Eastern holders, including Sime Darby itself which was last known to have had 4.8 per cent. The Far East is thought to have

about a fifth of the equity and would probably be receptive to an offer from Sime.

The issue will be decided by British institutions who have about 50 per cent of the equity. These have a whole spectrum of attitudes.

At one extreme are those who regard Guthrie as an admirable plantation company and one of the few vehicles for British investment in palm oil and rubber plantations without payment of the dollar premium.

At the other end are those who regard the passing of control of British plantation companies to the local inhabitants as an inevitable process, to be protected from, not resisted.

Guthrie can be expected to produce a strong defence against a bid of 425p or even somewhat higher. It has had many months to prepare for this bid having been warned by persistent rumours last summer.

On the other hand the institutions are finding it difficult to see a possible counter-bidder which could set up an auction.

Among the other UK institutional shareholders of Guthrie are Sime and Prosper unit trusts, around 3 per cent, Ivory and Sime, 1 per cent, and Rothschild Investment Trust something over 1 per cent.

## ATLANTIC ASSETS KWIK-FIT

Atlantic Assets, the Edinburgh-based investment trust, managed by Ivory and Sime, has acquired 1.35m ordinary shares, representing 8.62 per cent, of Kwik-Fit (Tyres and Exhausts) Holdings.

The shares were purchased from Kwik-Fit's chairman Alec Stenson, whose holding now amounts to 1m shares.

The purchase by Atlantic was made at 50p per share and the transaction was arranged by Edinburgh Finance and General Holdings.

# Foster Bros. buys Millets of Bristol

Foster Brothers Clothing Company, the multiple retailer specialising in menswear, has agreed to buy Millets of Bristol (Holdings) for at least £2.5m in cash and shares. Millets has 50 shops trading in casual wear and camping equipment. It also sells sports goods.

Foster will get an immediate return on its investment said Mr. B. G. Davidson, the group managing director, yesterday. And Foster would be able to improve the performance of Millets in the future, he said.

The buying power of Foster, which has 560 menswear shops, 60 childrenswear shops and 30 drugstores, would help improve Millets' margins. And the use of "sophisticated retail controls" would also improve its performance.

Pre-tax profits of £468,000 were made by Millets in the year ending January 28, 1978, and over £600,000 is being forecast for 1978/79. If profits do reach £600,000 in this period then the consideration will be increased by £400,000. Higher profits still would mean further consideration of up to £200,000.

The net asset value was £1.5m at the beginning of last year but the directors consider that the value of properties exceed the book value by at least £1m.

The basic consideration of £2.5m will be satisfied by £1.35m in cash and the issue of 673,649 Foster shares at 187p. In the market yesterday, Foster shares rose 3p to 171p.

Millets of Bristol (Holdings) is not to be confused with several other companies with similar names in the same field of camping and leisurewear. One of them, the publicly quoted Greenfield Millets, yesterday announced its intention of changing its name to Greenfield Leisure to make matters more clear.

## SPENCER CLARK DISPOSALS

High-speed tool manufacturer Spencer Clark Metal Industries is disposing of part of its Greasbrough Street Works, Rotherham and the whole of North British Steelworks, Penistone, Sheffield for a total consideration of about £800,000.

The move marks a continuation of the company's policy of expansion and rationalisation of manufacturing facilities. The cash consideration will enable the company to effect a substantial reduction in the group's indebtedness. In the year ending September 30, 1977, net borrowings stood at over £1m.

# World diamond sales hit a best-ever \$2.55bn

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

WORLD SALES of rough gem and industrial diamonds handled in 1978 by the Central Selling Organisation on behalf of De Beers and other producers have soared to a best-ever \$2.55bn (\$2,550m), a 23 per cent increase on the 1977 record of \$2.08bn (\$2,080m).

The impetus was maintained throughout the year, a total of \$1.06bn in the first half of 1978 being followed by one of \$1.16bn in the second half. The boom in sales values has reflected record price increases coupled with a high demand, much of which has been stimulated by hedging against the dollar and other currencies.

Such hedging almost got out of control in the first half of last year when merchants were hoarding uncut gems instead of passing them along the processing and marketing chain.

CSO countered this by imposing on its basic price temporary surcharges which amounted to as much as 40 per cent in March, 25 per cent in May, 15 per cent in June and 10 per cent in July.

The surcharges were then dropped and in their place the U.S. dollar, in which cut-gem diamonds are priced—and it followed a 17 per cent increase in December 1977.

The diamond market is now in its seasonally quiet period and no great excitement is expected at the January eight next week. A better guide to 1979 prospects may come with the mid-February sight. Meanwhile, anticipations are strengthened of a strong advance in De Beers' 1978 earnings which are due to be announced in March.

Market estimates in which cut-gem diamonds are priced—and it followed a 17 per cent increase in December 1977.

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ditions in the diamond market. Furthermore, the advent of independence in Namibia (South West Africa) could result in some reduction in the group's profits from that country which currently accounts for about 22 per cent of the total, although expansion is under way at the group's other mines in South Africa, Botswana and Namagaland. De Beers closed 5p up at 465p yesterday.

## Ayer Hitam does well

Production of tin concentrates at Malaysia's Ayer Hitam continued on a firmly rising path in December with an output for the month of 335 tonnes—the highest since November, 1976. The increase is all the more creditable for the fact that the No. 1 Dredge was shut down on December 13 for approximately six weeks for major repairs.

The latest figure brings the six-month total output to 1,183 tonnes compared with 822 tonnes in the same period last year or compared with \$217 per oz compared with \$200 in the previous three months.

THE Australian Government has finally given its approval for development of one of the major uranium discoveries in the Northern Territory. An agreement to develop the Ranger project was executed in Canberra yesterday between the discoverers, Peko-Wallaseid and EZ Industries, the Commonwealth Government and the Australian Atomic Energy Commission.

At the same time, the Minister for Trade and Resources, Mr. Douglas Anthony, issued an authority under section 41 of the Atomic Energy Act to allow mining at the Ranger project, reports James Forth from Sydney.

The approval comes slightly more than four years after Peko and EZ signed a memorandum of the day providing for the companies to develop Ranger in partnership with the AEC.

The project has been delayed by a number of factors, including a Government ban on entering into new uranium sales contracts, a lengthy Government-sponsored inquiry into the question of uranium mining, and rising opposition to development from anti-uranium and environmentalist groups.

tonnes compared with 822 tonnes in the same period last year or compared with \$217 per oz compared with \$200 in the previous three months.

Costs have been generally maintained, but gold production has fallen slightly in line with lower recovery grades. Notably gold profit increases are reported by Doornfontein, East Driefontein, Libanum and Venterspost, the last-named having been a repayer, rather than receiver, of state aid in the past quarter.

The group's latest quarterly net profits are compared in the following table.

	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.
Doornfontein	2,572	2,291	2,816
East Driefontein	2,071	1,813	2,342
Libanum	1,210	1,040	1,114
Venterspost	4,713	4,133	4,821
West Driefontein	27,434	25,797	25,710

State aid repayment.

The new Deelkraal gold mine has now completed all its major surface installations. As already announced, it is hoped to start trial milling towards the end of this year.

# Higher gold profits in Dec. quarter

A GOOD showing is made by the first batch of December quarterly reports from the South African gold producers, those of the Consolidated Gold Fields group. A general increase in profits to record levels reflects a rise in the average gold price received to \$217 per oz compared with \$200 in the previous three months.

Costs have been generally maintained, but gold production has fallen slightly in line with lower recovery grades. Notably gold profit increases are reported by Doornfontein, East Driefontein, Libanum and Venterspost, the last-named having been a repayer, rather than receiver, of state aid in the past quarter.

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State aid repayment.

# Go-ahead for Ranger uranium

The last major hurdle was cleared in November when agreement was reached with the Northern Land Council on royalties for traditional Aboriginal landowners.

Yesterday's agreement provides that the AEC will put up 72.5 per cent of the estimated capital cost of A\$300m (£170m) for 3,000 tonnes a year of uranium oxide production. Production should get under way in about three years' time. The AEC will receive 80 per cent of the uranium concentrates produced.

If mining continues beyond the 21-year period provided for in the agreement, costs and proceeds will be shared equally between the companies and the Government.

Meanwhile, Peko-Wallaseid and EZ will each contribute 13.75 per cent of the finance for 25 per cent each of the output. The companies will have the responsibility for making their own marketing arrangements for this material but will be subject to Government policy on uranium exports. The Government has not yet finally decided its policy in regard to uranium export controls.

It has previously been stated that buyers must first negotiate a nuclear safeguards agreement with Australia before a contract can be negotiated but the

Government is considering allowing conditional contracts, to speed up negotiations, which would allow the ventures to work out terms and prices before a safeguards agreement is concluded.

Peko and EZ executives described the signing of the agreement and the mining authority as "major milestones" in the development of Ranger. It should clear the way to enable later development of other deposits such as Queensland Mines' Nabarlek discovery and Pangeocon Mining's Jabiluka.

The joint ventures will proceed to full-scale development and production as soon as finance documentation is concluded and satisfactory marketing arrangements are entered into. In London, yesterday shares of Peko-Wallaseid and EZ Industries were unchanged at 460p and 253p respectively.

**MINING BRIEFS**

GEORGIN TUN—December output: 5,715 tonnes, (1978) 5,715 tonnes, (1977) 5,715 tonnes, (1976) 5,715 tonnes, (1975) 5,715 tonnes, (1974) 5,715 tonnes, (1973) 5,715 tonnes, (1972) 5,715 tonnes, (1971) 5,715 tonnes, (1970) 5,715 tonnes, (1969) 5,715 tonnes, (1968) 5,715 tonnes, (1967) 5,715 tonnes, (1966) 5,715 tonnes, (1965) 5,715 tonnes, (1964) 5,715 tonnes, (1963) 5,715 tonnes, (1962) 5,715 tonnes, (1961) 5,715 tonnes, (1960) 5,715 tonnes, (1959) 5,715 tonnes, (1958) 5,715 tonnes, (1957) 5,715 tonnes, (1956) 5,715 tonnes, (1955) 5,715 tonnes, (1954) 5,715 tonnes, (1953) 5,715 tonnes, (1952) 5,715 tonnes, (1951) 5,715 tonnes, (1950) 5,715 tonnes, (1949) 5,715 tonnes, (1948) 5,715 tonnes, (1947) 5,715 tonnes, (1946) 5,715 tonnes, (1945) 5,715 tonnes, (1944) 5,715 tonnes, (1943) 5,715 tonnes, (1942) 5,715 tonnes, (1941) 5,715 tonnes, (1940) 5,715 tonnes, (1939) 5,715 tonnes, (1938) 5,715 tonnes, (1937) 5,715 tonnes, (1936) 5,715 tonnes, (1935) 5,715 tonnes, (1934) 5,715 tonnes, (1933) 5,715 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Companies and Markets

INTERNATIONAL BOND MARKETS

Dollar's role curtailed

By JOHN EVANS

THE INTERNATIONAL bond markets underwent what many participants consider to be a fundamental shift in emphasis during 1978.

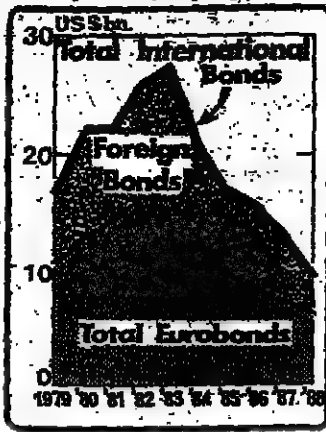
The dollar's broad depreciation last year, accompanied by a rise in short-term U.S. interest rates to near-historic highs, drastically reduced the American currency's role in the Eurobond market.

In recognition of the importance of the foreign bond markets, the Eurobond network itself saw an absolute decline in the volume of new issues. Orion Bank has now issued a new version of its analysis of fund flows, this time covering the whole international bond market, instead of merely the Eurobond sector.

New Eurobond issues last year totalled \$14.7bn, equivalent, a decline of 17 per cent on 1977. In contrast, total international bond issues, when Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and the Far East are included, showed a marginal increase at \$14.7bn.

Orion Bank's study shows that the amounts of interest and principal repayments during the next decade are significant in relation to the present volume of new international issues.

Such repayments represent a "solid" core of support for the bond markets, underlining the fact that large repayments being re-invested in the markets may



reach \$5.9bn, bringing total flows to \$14.7bn this year.

Over the next decade, repayments should peak in 1983, when \$27.9bn of principal and interest payments are due. Eurobonds account for \$16.4 bn—or 59 per cent—of this and foreign bonds \$11.4bn.

By 1983, the total flows should recede to \$27.9bn, with \$16.4bn attributable to Eurobonds and \$11.4bn to foreign bonds. Over the decade as a whole, repayments of all varieties should total \$162.4bn (see accompanying

ing chart of repayment schedules).

Throughout the decade, the volume of repayments in Eurobonds outstrips that in foreign bonds.

This reflects the relative maturity of the 15-year-old Eurobond market. For instance, the Yankee bond market was effectively closed between 1963 and 1973, reflecting the impact of the U.S. interest equalisation tax on foreign borrowers.

Similarly, the Samurai market for foreign institutions in Tokyo has only been an effective way of raising capital since 1975.

The pattern of redemptions during 1978, comprising both Euro and foreign bonds, is as follows (in \$bn): January \$0.3; February \$1.3; March \$1.4; April \$1.4; May \$1.3; June \$1.5; July \$1.2; August \$1.1; September \$1.3; October \$1.3; November \$1.4; December \$2.2.

However, the bank does qualify its study in several respects. There is a question mark over the redemptions figure in relation to foreign bonds, since repayments of such issues appear in certain cases to be less likely to be reinvested in new international issues than are Eurobond repayments.

In addition, repayments of principal to investors have historically proved to be a greater source of reinvestment than interest payments, Orion states.

For example, during 1978, only 39 per cent of the total Eurobond redemptions of \$10.9bn represent principal payments.

Mellon net boosted by strong loan demand

By David Lascelles in New York

MELLON National Bank, the first bank to report on the final quarter of 1978, said yesterday that its net income before securities transactions was \$28.5m, up 25 per cent on the same period last year. Per share earnings were up 23 per cent, from 98 cents to \$1.21.

Most of this rise, according to Mr. James Higgins, the Pittsburgh-based bank's chairman, was due to higher net interest income on a higher level of commercial and consumer loans. There was also a lower provision for bad loans, and earnings from data processing services were higher.

The figures bring Mellon's year-end earnings to \$84.3m, up nearly 22 per cent on last year. Earnings per share rose from \$3.62 to \$4.40.

The bank's report suggests that, as expected, bank earnings are still on the rise due to continuing strong demand for credit.

Mattel to buy Western Publishing

NEW YORK—Mattel, the major toy and skateboard manufacturers, and Western Publishing have agreed in principle for the acquisition of all Western's common stock by Mattel.

The transaction would involve the exchange of Western common for an aggregate consideration of 2.41m shares of a new cumulative \$25 par value voting convertible preferred stock plus about \$4.9m cash.

The 114,035 outstanding shares of Western preferred and second preferred stock will be redeemed at \$110 per share or an aggregate of about \$12.5m.

For each of the 3.3m shares of Western Publishing common, stockholders will receive either \$28.55 cash or 1.134 shares of preferred stock.

The shares of new Mattel preferred would pay an annual dividend per share of \$2.50 and would be convertible into not more than 2.38 nor less than 2.1 shares of Mattel common.

The transaction is designed to be tax-free to Western shareholders receiving solely the new Mattel convertible preferred.

The agreement is subject to approval by both companies' Boards and stockholders, and a definitive agreement of merger and various regulatory approvals.

ATT rebuttal to government

WASHINGTON—American Telephone and Telegraph has filed a statement with the U.S. District Court, saying that the Justice Department anti-trust charges against the Bell system are "baseless."

The company said it believed the Government's charges, made two months ago, "reveal a total misunderstanding of the telecommunications industry and do not support the Government's radical request to break up the system."

AT and T said the Justice Department case covers a 100-year period but added: "Virtually all the specific charges in the case, however, deal with an allegedly anti-competitive course of conduct occurring over only the last 10 years."

The Justice Department filed the civil anti-trust suit in 1974 against AT and T, Western Electric, a subsidiary which manufactured telephone equipment for the Bell system, and Bell Telephone Laboratories, owned equally by AT and T and Western Electric.

They were accused of violating the Sherman Act by allegedly conspiring to monopolize telecommunications services in the U.S.

The suit asked for divestiture of Western Electric and division of it into two or more competing companies.

AT and T in its statement filed with the U.S. District Court, said the Government had "largely ignored the technological forces that determined the structure of the Bell system, the regulatory statutes and policies that governed the system both before and after 1968... and the nature of the controversies that commenced in 1968 out of which the charges in this case arose."

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AMERICAN EXPRESS SURPRISE OFFER

Diversification is the key

By STEWART FLEMING in New York

AFTER A year during which investors and share analysts have been asking where American Express will look in the future for steady earnings growth, the company yesterday provided the answer in the shape of a \$830m cash take-over for McGraw Hill.

The bid promises to be one of the most surprising of the year but fits firmly into the pattern of the take-over wave in the U.S. of major companies expanding into unrelated fields by trying to acquire leaders in other sectors of the economy.

American Express, the third largest diversified financial company on Fortune's list with assets of \$12.3bn, is already a leader in three of the main fields in which it operates.

It is, of course, best known for its international credit card and traveller's cheque business, which accounts for not far short of its total earnings of \$282m in the year to December, 1977.

Less well known is its ownership of the Fireman's Fund, the sixth largest U.S. insurance and life assurance company with assets of \$3.9bn and earnings last year of \$128m.

Amex's other principal business is international banking—with its other interests it would not be permitted to operate a bank in the U.S.—a business which has been growing rapidly, but according to share analysts, not particularly profitably. Thus in 1977 American Express International Banking Company (AEIBC) reported net income

of only \$28.1m on total assets of \$4.5bn, a sharply lower rate of return than the \$129m earned by its travel division on assets of \$3.4bn. The logic of this comparison is that the credit card and traveller's cheque operation, which are profit

the field among the wealthier U.S. credit card holders, and hence is seen as the target for much of the emerging competition. The banks themselves make it clear that they are determined to break into American Express's market share, and

It is partly the mounting aggression of the giant banks in the consumer finance, credit card and traveller's cheque business which has led investors to question whether American Express can maintain its earnings growth in this vital area of its operations.

centred in its travel division, are businesses which compete directly and around the world with services offered by the best known international banks such as Bank of America, Barclay's and Citicorp.

Aggression of these giant banks in the consumer finance, credit card and traveller's cheque business which has led investors to question whether American Express can maintain its earnings growth in this vital area of its operations in the future.

The big U.S. banks, Citicorp in particular, have been attacking this market partly through bank-related credit cards such as MasterCard and Visa, and already have provoked some erosion of the profit margins in the market place. American Express is the brand leader in

day at \$31, down from the \$35 at which it closed in December 1978. This is in spite of the 34.8 per cent increase in profits, the company reported in 1977, and the 18 per cent earnings gain (from \$183m to \$223m) reported in the first nine months of 1978. The shares are currently selling on an earnings multiple of eight, slightly below the average for the Standard and Poor's 500 companies.

If the company succeeds with its offer for McGraw Hill, it would bring into the fold one of the most desirable publishing and communications properties in the U.S., and a business which many analysts feel operates in an industry which has a bright long-term future, information systems and communication. What is more, it is a business which has a record of stable earnings growth. McGraw Hill's profits have risen from \$25.5m in 1973 to \$51.4m in 1977.

McGraw Hill's interest range from book and educational publishing to financial services and broadcasting.

Last year, McGraw Hill's reported operating profits of \$35.4m on revenues of \$278.4m, and its publications division had profits of \$34.8m on revenues of \$196m. Its information systems business had profits of \$24.4m on revenues of \$96.7m, and its broadcasting division profits of \$14.5m on sales of \$87m.

These, then, are some of the concerns which have been expressed about American Express, and they help to explain why its share price has performed sluggishly, even though this year the company will report its 87th successive year of profit growth. It closed yesterday

at \$31, down from the \$35 at which it closed in December 1978. This is in spite of the 34.8 per cent increase in profits, the company reported in 1977, and the 18 per cent earnings gain (from \$183m to \$223m) reported in the first nine months of 1978. The shares are currently selling on an earnings multiple of eight, slightly below the average for the Standard and Poor's 500 companies.

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Generale Occidentale in bid for Diamond Intl.

By OUR NEW YORK STAFF

AN INTRIGUING indication that Sir James Goldsmith is planning further substantial investment in the U.S. emerged on Monday in the shape of a notice to acquire more than \$15m of stock in Diamond International, a forest products manufacturer.

Originating the purchase is Sir James' French company, Generale Occidentale whose U.S. subsidiary, Grand Union, completed the \$135m acquisition of Colonial Stores, a southern grocery chain, in November. This takeover is now being challenged in the courts by the Federal Trade Commission.

News that a fresh investment is pending was broken by Diamond which had received notice that Generale Occidentale had made a preliminary filing with the FTC that it intended

to acquire "in excess of \$15m" of the company's stock.

Under the Hart-Scott-Rodino anti-trust improvements act, advance notice must be given by companies of a certain size of an intention to purchase 15 per cent or \$15m of another company's stock.

There was no comment or clarification available from Grand Union late on Monday and Mr. William Kozlo, president and chief executive of Diamond, claimed that he had "no way of knowing how much stock Generale Occidentale intends to buy, nor the method by which it may seek to acquire such shares."

Diamond has some 11.8m shares outstanding and Generale Occidentale or one of its subsidiaries could already have purchased up to 3.9 per cent without having to notify the authorities.

AMC and Renault unveil facts on production deal

By JOHN WYLES in New York

FINAL agreement on a possibly unique Franco-American cooperative agreement covering the production and marketing of passenger cars and utility vehicles is due to be unveiled today by American Motors and Renault, France's state-owned auto company.

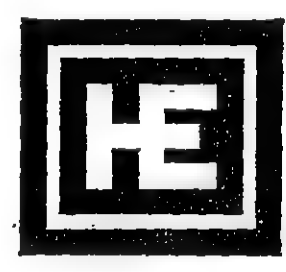
Some nine months after they first announced their intention to negotiate the venture, AMC and Renault will publicly unveil a deal which both hope will transform their currently slender fortunes in the U.S. car market.

On the one hand the agreement is expected to provide for the distribution of Renault's RS small car through AMC's 3,000 U.S. dealers and for the production, probably starting next year, of the French company's R18 family saloon at AMC's Kenosha, Wisconsin, assembly plant. On

the other, Renault is believed ready to undertake the marketing in Europe of AMC's jeep utility vehicle range.

Main interest in the agreement will focus on the extent to which Renault has been able to limit its financial commitment. Most analysts are at a loss to see how hard-pressed AMC can pay for the retrofitting of its Kenosha plant to facilitate production of the R18.

Despite a \$36.7m profit in its fiscal year ending last September 30, the company is heavily in debt and barely capable of financing the development of its own new models. These, together with the Renault cars, are desperately needed to halt the steady decline in its passenger car sales, which now account for less than 2 per cent of deliveries from the U.S. car industry.



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Companies and Markets

## INTNL. COMPANIES and FINANCE

# Chrysler and Mitsubishi discuss vital changes in business lines

BY RICHARD C. HANSON IN TOKYO

THE TOP executives of Chrysler Corporation and Mitsubishi Motor Corporation yesterday began another round of talks in Palm Springs, California, which could lead to fundamental changes in their business ties.

One immediate problem facing Mitsubishi Motor, in which Chrysler has a 15 per cent stake, is how to diversify its car distribution system in the American market away from the Chrysler network.

The American manufacturer now handles all of Mitsubishi's U.S. sales. From 1980, however, changes in U.S. regulations will mean that Chrysler will have to concentrate on producing its own small-size vehicles to meet new Government fuel economy standards.

The regulation, effective from next year, excludes so-called "captive" imports in measuring the combined average fuel consumption of all models produced for required levels.

case from Isuzu) have smaller engines and would have helped lower the fuel consumption average and meet the standard. Mitsubishi exports about 120,000 cars annually to the U.S. for sale under Chrysler brand names. Internationally, Chrysler handles about 60 per cent of Mitsubishi exports.

On the other hand, Chrysler is apparently seeking Mitsubishi co-operation—including financial—in carrying out an ambitious, and expensive, retooling of its plants in order to meet the 1985 fuel economy standards.

It is considered highly unlikely that Mitsubishi (and its parent Mitsubishi Heavy Industries) will agree to any substantial equity participation in Chrysler in the U.S. The Mitsubishi parent itself is somewhat tight for funds because of the continuing slump in shipbuilding and other heavy machinery sales.

Mitsubishi, meanwhile, is trying to reach an agreement on an equity share in Chrysler's Australian subsidiary, a matter which will have to be settled, probably, before any other

financial ties can be considered. Mitsubishi would like to reach an agreement in the next few months.

Japanese Press reports have said that Chrysler has asked Mitsubishi informally to consider equity participation. There is also speculation on Chrysler's share in Mitsubishi.

The Japanese Press has also reported that Mr. Lee Iacocca, Chrysler's new president, and Mr. Tomio Kubo, the Mitsubishi president, will talk about changes in the payments for its exports.

Mitsubishi is believed to want a shortening of the period for settlement of export letters of credit from Chrysler. The outstanding amount owed to Mitsubishi could total \$20bn (\$410m), according to Nihon Shimbun, a business daily. A Mitsubishi spokesman could not confirm any of the Press speculation.

Mitsubishi did say, however, that the impact of Chrysler's need to sell more of its own U.S.-made small cars is already showing up in American inventories.

In October, a meeting of executives from the two companies produced a contract under which Mitsubishi would supply 200,000 engines a year for five years in the early 1980s.

Chrysler Corporation is planning to build an engine plant in Mexico, according to a report in a trade magazine, AP-DJ reports from Detroit. Machine tool suppliers of the third big motor manufacturer have been consulted about providing equipment for a Mexican plant, the magazine Metalworking News said. Chrysler officials would neither confirm nor deny the report.

The possibility of a Mexican deal follows Chrysler's sale of its European operations to Peugeot-Citroen of France. The U.S. manufacturer will receive 1.8m shares of Peugeot-Citroen stock and \$330m for the sale. The money will help to finance the Mexican plant, Metalworking News said.

Chrysler has two major manufacturing bases in Mexico, which sell and build four lines of cars and trucks.

## Tandberg staff to raise capital for TV plant

By Fay Gjerster in Oslo

EMPLOYEES AT one of the plants belonging to Tandberg, the Norwegian state-owned electronics concern, recently declared bankruptcy, have agreed to form an interim company which will try to carry on production of Tandberg TV and radio sets.

Another interim company, formed with Government assistance, aims to continue production of Tandberg's profitable lines such as data equipment, language laboratories and possibly tape recorders. It believes, however, that continued production of Tandberg TV and radio sets is not feasible economically.

The employees' company, which will have the legal minimum share capital of Nkr 50,000 (\$10,000), will negotiate with Tandberg's receivers to buy the radio and TV factory. Mr. Tor Halvorsen, chairman of Norway's TUC, said that he sympathised with the workers' ambitions but it would be difficult for them to raise the capital they would need.

The TUC's legal department has helped Tandberg workers with advice about the formalities of setting up an interim company.

## Adam Opel increases output

ADAM OPEL AG, the West German subsidiary of General Motors, reports a 6 per cent increase in vehicle sales in West Germany to 520,000 units for 1978.

Total production of the company, which maintains plants in three European countries, rose 3.7 per cent to 958,202 units, which represented "almost full" capacity utilisation, a Press meeting was told.

The company predicted that production would increase further to about 990,000 units in the current year or at almost "maximum" capacity. Price levels of the European models would rise as labour costs and the prices of raw materials continue to climb.

AP-DJ

## EOE turnover drops sharply

AMSTERDAM — Turnover on the European Options Exchange fell sharply to 14,574 contracts in December from 24,041 in November.

Average daily turnover dropped to 787 contracts from 1,093 in November, returning to the levels seen in the exchange's first four months of operation. After average daily turnover of over 1,000 contracts in August to November inclusive.

The exchange said that the lower turnover reflected the fact that Dutch share prices showed little net change in December, although U.S. options were active.

Exchange turnover from its opening on April 4 to the end of December totalled 187,461 contracts, of which the general public's share, at 48 per cent, was higher than expected, the exchange said.

Reuters

## Split planned at Saunier-Duval

BY DAVID WHITE IN PARIS

REORGANISATION AT Saint-Gobain-Pont-a-Mousson, the diversified French industrial combine, is leading to the splitting-up of an engineering group, Saunier-Duval, in which it has a blocking interest.

Saunier-Duval, which was in financial difficulties up to a couple of years ago, is to be divided into two independent companies, one taking over its large electrical installation business and the other its heating and plumbing activities.

Saint-Gobain-Pont-a-Mousson holds 48.2 per cent of the capital alongside family and other interests. In overall terms, it is thought, will not change under the plan, expected to take effect next year. It is envisaged that both the independent companies will be quoted on the Paris stock exchange.

Saunier-Duval has forecast 1978 results double the previous year's, with net profits rising from FFfr 8.4m to over FFfr 10m (\$2.4m).

Combined turnover is expected to rise this year to about FFfr 1.82bn (\$432m) from FFfr 1.62bn last year. Turnover in electrical installations is forecast at FFfr 1.07bn, or 8 per cent up on 1978, and sales of heating and related appliances at FFfr 750m, to show the much larger growth rate of 19 per cent.

Saint-Gobain-Pont-a-Mousson said that the move fitted into its strategy of organising the various parts of the group by activity. The two sides of Saunier-Duval are distinct—the contracting business of electrical installations for factories and residential buildings, and the manufacturing activity con-

ducted with central heating and so on.

The same re-organisation process has already been seen within the Saint-Gobain-Pont-a-Mousson group proper, especially in the glassmaking activities of the former Saint-Gobain company. These are still held together under a holding unit, Saint-Gobain Industries, but this formula is to be dispensed with in the case of Saunier-Duval.

The move is not expected to imply thinning out of Saunier-Duval's activity, since it is in much better standing than in 1974 and 1975, when it reported heavy losses. However, it is possible that Saunier-Duval's current manufacturing activities will in future be closely linked with similar operations within the Pont-a-Mousson part of the group.

## Upturn after restructure at Neckermann Versand

BY GUY HAWTIN IN FRANKFURT

NECKERMANN VERSAND — the ailing Frankfurt store and mail order group acquired by Karstadt some two years ago—has produced 1978 figures which show a marked improvement on its past performance. While the substantial restructuring the group has undergone has reduced total sales, the underlying sales picture is one of palpable growth.

It will be some time before the group's profit and loss account is made public, but according to the interim statement on the year's performance, real sales on the group's mail order operations, including its showrooms, rose by 6.4 per cent to DM 1.53bn (\$832m), including Value Added Tax.

Under the Karstadt regime, the concern's loss-making department stores operations have been stripped away, with the bulk of them placed directly under Karstadt management. Those situated in towns where Karstadt already has a store in the near vicinity have been closed.

As a result, Neckermann Versand's overall figures for 1978 show a decline of 27 per cent on the sales front, with turnover totalling DM 1.89bn. By the by, this, of course, has somewhat distorted Karstadt's figures for the year.

An impressive 19.3 per cent expansion rate was reported by Neckermann's travel subsidiary N-U-R Neckermann und Reisen, which in the 1977-78 business year saw business reach DM 1.07bn. Within this figure, the steepest growth rate was reported by its Neckermann Vliegweisen subsidiary, based in Amsterdam, Holland, which achieved a sales increase of 30.1 per cent to FF180m.

Neckermann Eigenheim, its prefabricated housing operation, also showed an excellent year. Sales rose 18.9 per cent to DM 1977 performance to DM 438m.

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## Higher issues of Israeli dollar bonds

By L. Daniel in Tel Aviv

SALES OF Israeli Government dollar-bonds totalled \$370m in 1978, compared with \$331.5m in 1977. This was the fourth successive year that cash receipts from the sale of Israel bonds and other Israel securities showed a substantial increase over the preceding year.

The rise in 1978 was the largest achieved in any non-war year. The proceeds from the bonds are one of the major sources for the expansion of Israeli industry and infrastructure.

Since the launching of the Israel bond drive in 1951, a total of close to \$4.3bn of these bonds and similar securities have been sold. Many of the earlier series have meanwhile been retired on maturity. A proportion of the bonds is also converted into Israeli currency by bondholders visiting Israel to finance their local expenses. While the greater part of the issues go to the Jewish public, a growing proportion is being taken up by non-Jewish U.S. institutional investors.

## Genesco sells stake in French shoe company

PARIS — The Swiss fashion group Loew S.A. has agreed to acquire the 92 per cent interest in the French shoe company Charles Jourdan held by Genesco of the U.S. The transaction, which remains subject to French government approval, is believed to involve about \$20m.

Jourdan, which manufactures and distributes high quality footwear and accessories in Europe and the U.S., has annual sales of about FFfr 100m.

The French authorities are known to have linked the acquisition of Jourdan to the takeover of Societe Scilla, another shoe company, in which Jourdan's president, M. Roland Jourdan, and the French Industrial Development Institute (IDI) have an equal share.

AP-DJ

## Lindt chocolate group sees flat 1978 sales

BY JOHN WICKS IN ZURICH

THE SWISS chocolate company Lindt and Spruengli expects 1978 world turnover, including licence income, to show little change from the 1977 level of Swfr 408m (\$249m).

In an interview with the Zurich newspaper Finanz und Wirtschaft, chairman Dr. Rudolph R. Spruengli said that sales in local currencies had risen by between 10 and 15 per cent, but this had been offset by the rise in the Swiss franc exchange rate.

The budgeted profit figure for the parent company had not quite been reached in 1978, according to Dr. Spruengli. However, the company would again show "good results" and could not complain at last year's profit level. Parent company sales are expected to have fallen slightly within the group total to about

Swfr 142m from Swfr 145.9m, due to a drop in direct exports. On the home market, the rise of the Swiss franc has meant lower sales to tourists and in frontier areas.

The Zurich-based Euro-Clear clearance system has announced an extension of its service to permit the acceptance of all outstanding Samurai yen bond issues for deposit and clearance.

Euro-Clear accepted the Kingdom of Denmark yen issue last August as a start to its Samurai service and has since expanded to include a number of other new and outstanding issues. Now, Euro-Clear participants will be able to deposit any Samurai issue, in either bearer or registered form, and to hold and clear Samurai bonds under normal Euro-Clear conditions and tariffs.

## Mainland prospects for China Light

HONG KONG — China Light and Power Co. may begin supplying electricity to Kwangtung province within the next few months, informed sources said.

The sources said that work is in progress on the installation of transmission lines between Hong Kong and China and scheduled for completion within three months.

A spokesman for China Light contacted by Reuters refused to discuss the matter.

The sources said that the amount of electricity to be supplied to Kwangtung and the

capacity of the link initially would be relatively small.

They also said that China could supply Kowloon via the new link in the event of a power failure here.

Rumours that China Light would supply electricity to Kwangtung on completion of its new power station at Castle Peak in the New Territories have circulated for some time, but have not been confirmed by the company.

However, the sources said there have been a number of visits to Hong Kong by Chinese power authority officials for dis-

cussions with China Light, and China Light engineers may soon visit Canton.

China Light chairman, Sir Lawrence Kadoorie said in November that agreement had been reached for the company to obtain coal supplies from China for the new power station.

The station will comprise four 350MW dual coal/oil fired generating units to be commissioned between 1982 and 1985. A second station housing four units of not less than 500 MW is also to be built at the site. Work is already in progress on

land reclamation for the power stations.

The company also announced last month a contract for construction of a 400 kV transmission network to carry supplies from the new stations, in four phases to coincide with the commissioning of the generating units.

The new power stations are to be operated by Kowloon Electricity Supply Company, a company owned jointly by China Light and the Export Corporation subsidiary, Eastern Energy Ltd. Reuters















Companies and Markets

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

# Secondary equities active and firm but leaders dull on continued labour unrest—Medium tap exhausted

Account Dealing Dates  
Option  
First Declara- Last Account  
Dealings from Dealings Day  
Jan. 2 Jan. 11 Jan. 12 Jan. 23  
Jan. 15 Jan. 23 Jan. 24 Feb. 6  
Jan. 29 Feb. 8 Feb. 9 Feb. 20

New time dealings may take place from 9.30 am two business days earlier.

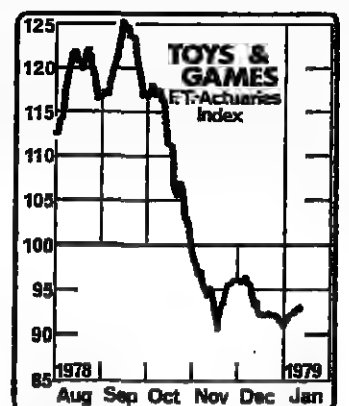
Stock markets failed to shake off the depressing effects of the current labour disputes and the overnight rally inspired by the apparent easing of fuel supplies following the Esso and Shell pay agreements soon ran out of steam. Despite the fact that BP tanker drivers followed suit yesterday, potential investment buyers were prepared to wait the outcome of the efforts by ACAS to find a solution to the increasingly disruptive lorry drivers' strike, while their mood was also tempered by the threat of a national rail strike next week.

Prices of equity leaders were firm enough to start with but soon reacted to either around overnight levels for most of the day in the absence of support before easing to close with small falls on balance. Up 0.9 at 10 am, the index was showing a net loss of 2.2 an hour later and closed that much off at 482.2.

Gift-edged also started firmly, helped by the opening announcement that the Government Broker had run out of supplies of the short-medium Exchequer 1988 tap. Early modest gains in this market were also relinquished, and often replaced by small falls, in face of the industrial unrest and the likely cost of eventual settlements.

It was left to second-line equities to provide scattered firm features, but the overall tone remained satisfactory and activity, as measured by official markings of 3,374, expanded to its best since September '78 last. Rises were again in a majority over falls in FT-quoted equities, but the ratio narrowed to 3:2 against Monday's 5:2, while 99 new 1978-79 highs and no new lows were recorded.

Among the sectors, Oils were neglected and ended with small falls, but electronic issues were in favour again while Rubbers occasionally moved higher in sympathy with Sime Darby's bid approach to Guthrie and Mining Finance issues stood out with good gains on rising base-metal prices with Copper shares well to the fore.



Gift-edged became subdued after an initial burst of demand which exhausted the remaining supplies of the medium-dated tap stock, Exchequer 124 per cent, 1985, unaltered at 97, after 97.8. Mediums and long improved by around an at the start of business, but eventually reverted to overnight closing levels. Lack of follow-through support and occasional selling prompted a noticeable turnaround in the shorts after the previous day's good showing and final quotations recorded losses extending to 1. The announcement of the Banking figures for mid-December were much in line with expectations and had little impact on sentiment.

The investment currency market moved narrowly with institutional interest shown at the lower levels. After trading around 83 per cent for most of the day, the premium closed 1 lower on balance at 82.1 per cent. Yesterday's SE conversion factor was 0.015 (0.014).

Interest in Traded Options remained at a low ebb and only 351 contracts were completed. GEC attracted a moderate demand, recording 55 deals.

**Banks easier**  
Home banks turned reactionary after recent Press-inspired strength. Late publication of the latest lending figures made no impression on earlier easier levels and Barclays and Lloyds closed 6 off at 380 and 290 respectively. Merchant banks, on the other hand, moved higher in places with improvement in the latest lending figures made no impression on earlier easier levels and Barclays and Lloyds closed 6 off at 380 and 290 respectively. Merchant banks, on the other hand, moved higher in places with improvement in the latest lending figures made no impression on earlier easier levels and Barclays and Lloyds closed 6 off at 380 and 290 respectively.

Simon Engineering, 266p. Westland became a better market at 38p, up 4, awaiting today's preliminary results. Further occasional support for James Walker led the ordinary and A shares 6 higher at 125p and 113p respectively. H. Samuel A rose 6 to 204p on further consideration of the interim statement, and Warlag and Gillev put on 5 to 130p on small buying in a thin market, while rises of 3 and 5 respectively were seen in

Steady at 265p before the rights issue and profits forecast announcement. Haslemere touched 273p immediately following it, but subsequently fell back to 260p for a net loss of 8; the 94 per cent convertible shed 7 points to 148.1. Other Properies improved on a selective basis with Churchbury Estates up another 3 to 348p and Albright (London) 7 better at 238p. Chaddeley stood out at 56p, up 6, in response to the interim results of 1978 diamond sales figure which showed a 23 per cent increase on the previous year; initially, the shares had eased to 392p but as news of the sharply higher sales figures reached the market, the price advanced strongly, fuelled by American buying, to close 5 better on balance at 405p.

**Late rise in De Beers**  
Mining markets enjoyed a good day with activity much improved. De Beers attracted a good deal of interest both before and after the Central Selling Organisation 1978 diamond sales figure which showed a 23 per cent increase on the previous year; initially, the shares had eased to 392p but as news of the sharply higher sales figures reached the market, the price advanced strongly, fuelled by American buying, to close 5 better on balance at 405p.

**Oils quietly dull**  
Leading Oils drifted lower in continuing quiet trading. Shell gave up 6 to 568p and British Petroleum eased a few pence to 516p. Elsewhere, a late flurry of selling thought to have been prompted by a chart sell recommendation led Ultramar 3 cheaper at 212p. Tricentron eased 4 to 154p and Burnham 2 to 81p but speculative interest developed in Lasso which moved up 5 to 142p.

**Rank up again**  
Of the narrowly mixed miscellaneous Industrial leaders, Rank Organisation again stood out with a fresh rise of 8 to 276p, after 278p, following investment support ahead of the preliminary results due on January 24. Elsewhere, ICL added 15 to 450p with sentiment helped by news of a £1m computer contract from BL. Caral Down 7 the previous day in reaction to a "sell" recommendation, Restmor rallied 3 to 77p ahead of next Monday's first-half figures. IG Gas found support at 373p, up 8, and improvements of around 5 were recorded in Biorated Engineering, 47p, De La Rue, 370p and Hays Wharf, 180p. Renewed speculative buying on bid hopes lifted Gieves 3 to 108p, while Caplan Profile added the same amount to 143p on further consideration of the annual results. Negretti and Zambra declined 4 to 78p after comment on the sharp contraction in mid-term earnings, and reduced interim earnings prompted a reaction of 2 to 58p, after 57p, in RFD. Uninspiring half-year figures left Halsea Instruments with a loss of 3 at 41p.

**Standing 4 higher for most of the session, a late speculative flurry lifted Samuelson Film Service to 136p for a net gain of 16.**  
The efforts of a few buyers left Motor sectors with a firm appearance. Notable gains among Distributors included Harold Perry, 6 better at 120p, while Jessups closed 2 1/2 to the good at 48p.

Increased Romal rallied 30 to 285p, while Lawrie added 10 to 350p.

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## FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	Jan. 9	Jan. 8	Jan. 5	Jan. 4	Jan. 3	Jan. 2	Year ago
Government Secs.	58.49	58.52	58.42	58.61	58.47	58.50	77.29
Fixed Interest	70.40	70.35	70.29	70.29	70.34	70.30	89.95
Industrial	482.2	484.4	478.5	481.9	479.5	475.8	484.6
Gold Mines	135.8	140.4	136.5	137.4	137.4	137.4	133.2
Gold Mines-5 pm	96.1	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	96.6
Ord. Div. Yield	6.00	5.95	5.92	6.00	6.02	6.11	5.55
Earnings '78 (p)	15.78	15.69	15.80	15.78	15.78	15.08	16.84
P/E Ratio (p)	8.25	8.30	8.22	8.25	8.25	8.11	8.43
Dealings marked	5,876	5,898	5,144	5,580	5,000	2,465	7,130
Equity turnover £m.	51.08	55.12	60.03	57.74	50.18	58.25	58.25
Equity bargains total	10,841	10,502	11,911	9,885	7,712	16,641	

HIGHS AND LOWS		S.E. ACTIVITY	
1978/9	Since Completion	Jan. 9	Jan. 8
Govt Secs.	78.59 (41/78) 67.82 (41/78)	131.1	124.0
Fixed Int.	51.27 (41/78) 59.30 (41/78)	135.1	116.6
Ind. Ord.	535.5 (41/78) 453.4 (41/78)	122.4	81.9
Gold Mines	205.6 (41/78) 124.1 (41/78)	132.7	113.4
Gold Mines-5 pm	132.5 (41/78) 90.3 (41/78)	133.1	114.3
P/E Ratio	8.25 (41/78) 8.30 (41/78)	8.25	8.11

## NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1978/9

NEW HIGHS (30)		NEW LOWS (30)	
Stock	Price	Stock	Price
Barclays Bank	380	Shell Transport	265
Shell Transport	265	ICI	365
ICI	365	Guthrie Corp.	21
Guthrie Corp.	21	RTZ	233
RTZ	233	BP	916
BP	916	Burnham Oil	7
Burnham Oil	7	Beecham	205
Beecham	205	Disasters	50p
Disasters	50p	GEC	230
GEC	230	P. & O. Defd.	6
P. & O. Defd.	6	Read Intl.	181
Read Intl.	181	Thorn Elect.	25p
Thorn Elect.	25p	Tube Inva.	6

## ACTIVE STOCKS

Stock	Denomina- tion	Closing price (p)	Change on day	1978-79 high	1978-79 low
Barclays Bank	£1	380	+5	385	296
Shell Transport	25p	265	-8	602	484
ICI	25p	365	-2	421	227
Guthrie Corp.	£1	21	-7	443	211
RTZ	25p	233	+6	263	164
BP	£1	916	-2	954	720
Burnham Oil	£1	7	-2	93	42
Beecham	25p	205	-8	726	551
Disasters	50p	50p	-	215	183
GEC	£1	230	-1	230	200
P. & O. Defd.	£1	6	+1	125	74
Read Intl.	£1	181	+2	183	102
Thorn Elect.	25p	25p	+6	400	308
Tube Inva.	£1	6	-6	436	336

## A FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY FACTORY AND INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT

30 January 1979

The Financial Times proposes to publish a Survey on Factory and Industrial Equipment. The provisional editorial synopsis is set out below.

**INTRODUCTION** The factory today: a place for satisfying work and healthy profits or a battle ground for industrial strife? The burden of legislation, the impact of automation and rising labour costs.

**FACTORY BUILDING CONTRACTORS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS** Package services for all demands of factory building in the 1970s are available.

**FACTORY TRANSPORT** Rising labour costs may encourage greater use of the fork lift truck.

**MATERIALS HANDLING** Conveyor technology maintains its advance to complete automation in more and more factories.

**FACTORY STORAGE** Automation, ease of maintenance and low cost are the vital characteristics sought by storage systems engineers.

**RAW MATERIAL AND PRODUCT PACKAGING** This area has become an industry in its own right.

**PROCESSING. SHOP FLOOR PRODUCTION** Machine tools; component assembly; raw materials, component and product quality testing equipment.

**COMPUTERS** The biggest growth area reported by the Department of Industry in recent months.

**POWER EQUIPMENT** Emergency power generation equipment for lease, hire or outright purchase. The economics of installation.

**POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT AND NOISE CONTROL** Increasing demand for waste fluid handling plant, water purification plant and air, dust and gas cleaning equipment.

**HEATING AND VENTILATING EQUIPMENT** Specialised plant is available for use in factories such as electronic plants where high specification air and temperature control is demanded.

**STAFF AMENITIES** Canteen equipment and the need to provide more facilities for the growing female labour force employed in assembly work.

**FLOORING AND PARTITION EQUIPMENT** Ease of maintenance and the choice of appropriate surfaces for machinery and people dictates floor coverings.

**LIGHTING** Advances in discharge lamps, with improved colour rendering for applications in the workplace, make lighting an area of change for the factory manager, where energy costs dominate product choice and where the tungsten filament lamp is now obsolete.

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## LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Option	Exercise price	Closing offer	Vol.	Closing offer	Vol.	Equity close
BP	1000	15	18	47	25	915p
Com Union	150	5	24	15	15	154p
Gold	180	8	4	28	6	120p
Courtaulds	130	3	4	10	2	120p
GEC	300	8	8	10	2	120p
GEC	320	6	8	10	2	120p
GEC	340	6	8	10	2	120p
Grand Met.	110	17	10	10	2	117p
Grand Met.	110	7	4	11	5	114p
ICI	180	2	20	8	6	9
ICI	220	28	10	44	8	35p
ICI	260	11	27	19	8	37p
Land Secs	240	14	8	24	3	35p
Land Secs	260	14	8	24	3	35p
Marks & Sp.	70	1	10	15	10	81p
Shell	650	3	8	11	5	125p
Shell	650	3	8	11	5	125p
Totals		181		115	18	970p

## RECENT ISSUES

Issue Price	Amount Paid	Latest Return	1978-79 High	1978-79 Low	Stock	Offering Price	+ or -	Div. Amt	Div. Date	Yield	Yield %	Yield %
450.50 p.p.	78	61	15	18	73	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
155 p.p.	101	176	170	170	172	2	+	7.28	8.1	6.8	7.8	7.8
100p p.p.	91	31	29	10	10	1	+	51.84	8.1	6.8	7.8	7.8
110 p.p.	171	135	115	115	115	1	+	100.7	1.8	6.4	18.7	18.7

## FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Issue Price	Amount Paid	Latest Return	1978-79 High	1978-79 Low	Stock	Offering Price	+ or -	Div. Amt	Div. Date	Yield	Yield %	Yield %
100p	15.2	109p	106p	106p	106p	109p	109p	109p	109p	109p	109p	109p
100p	28.1	100p	99p	99p	99p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p
100p	28.1	100p	99p	99p	99p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p
100p	28.1	100p	99p	99p	99p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

## "RIGHTS" OFFERS

Issue Price	Amount Paid	Latest Return	1978-79 High	1978-79 Low	Stock	Offering Price	+ or -	Div. Amt	Div. Date	Yield	Yield %	Yield %
60	19/12/78	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p
17	19/12/78	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p
67	19/12/78	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p
305	19/12/78	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p	120p

Renunciation date usually last day for dealing free of stamp duty, b figures based on prospectus estimate, c assumed dividend and yield, d forecast dividend, e cover based on previous year's earnings, f dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1979, g Gross, h Figures assumed only for restricted dividends, i Placing price to public, j Placing price shown was indicated, k Issued by tender, l Offered to holders of ordinary shares as a "rights", m Issued by way of capitalisation, n Repurchased, o Issued in connection with takeover or take-over, p Introduction, q Issued to former preference holders, r Allotment letters (or fully-paid), s Provisional or partly-paid allotment letters, t With warrants.

## FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS		Tues., Jan. 9, 1979				Mon., Jan. 8		Fri., Jan. 5		Thurs., Jan. 4		Wed., Jan. 3		Year 200 (approx.)	
GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS		Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Earnings Yield % (Mar.)	Gross Div. Yield % (ACT vs 39%)	Est. P/E Ratio (Mar)	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.	
Prices in parentheses show number of stocks per section															
CAPITAL GOODS (172)		237.07	+0.1	17.02	5.53	8.04	236.21	235.99	236.18	234.29	231.36	231.36	231.36	231.36	
Building Materials (27)		209.39	+0.3	16.02	6.17	7.63	208.94	208.79	208.93	206.12	203.76	203.76	203.76	203.76	
Contracting, Construction (28)		364.27	+0.6	21.27	4.92	6.43	363.16	363.22	364.07	361.99	362.22	361.99	361.99	361.99	
Electricals (15)		525.53	—	13.86	3.42	9.88	525.75	547.72	550.82	546.82	548.92	548.92	548.92	548.92	
Engineering Contractors (14)		364.29	+1.9	17.84	5.92	7.60	364.61	369.89	361.99	361.99	361.99	361.99	361.99	361.99	
Industrial Engineering (72)		154.74	—	18.27	5.77	7.50	154.79	155.84	154.74	153.82	154.74	153.82	154.74	153.82	
Metals and Metal Forming (16)		164.38	+0.3	16.62	6.76	8.36	164.06	163.77	163.99	162.75	162.75	162.75	162.75	162.75	
CONSUMER GOODS															
(DURABLE) (53)		211.69	+0.4	16.35	5.31	8.06	211.79	211.37	211.63	210.39	210.39	210.39	210.39	210.39	
L.E. Electronics, Radio, TV (16)		268.31	+0.6	13.89	3.89	10.10	266.79	262.71	266.16	266.26	266.26	266.26	266.26	266.26	
Household Goods (12)		166.72	+0.4	18.12	6.84	7.57	166.85	166.64	166.16	166.16	166.16	166.16	166.16	166.16	
Motors and Distributors (25)		122.16	+0.2	26.96	6.90	5.99	121.94	121.63	122.25	122.16	122.16	122.16	122.16	122.16	
CONSUMER GOODS															
(NON-DURABLE) (170)		211.81	+0.2	16.10	6.02	8.29	211.36	210.29	211.16	210.16	210.16	210.16	210.16	210.16	
Breweries (14)		234.16	+0.1	15.67	6.42	8.29	233.36	233.36	234.63	232.36	227.86	227.86	227.86	227.86	
Wines and Spirits (6)		296.16	+0.3	16.61	5.14	9.17	299.27	297.24	296.67	295.71	293.82	293.82	293.82	293.82	
Entertainment, Catering (17)		275.99	+0.3	12.49	6.38	10.66	276.86	276.33	275.75	273.27	259.98	259.98	259.98	259.98	
Food Manufacturing (19)		202.30	+0.5	18.80	5.56	7.06	201.32	201.68	202.69	202.69	202.69	202.69	202.69	202.69	
Food Retailing (15)		234.22	+0.4	14.22	5.83	9.66	233.18	231.85	230.40	231.21	229.58	229.58	229.58	229.58	
Furniture, Publishing (12)		362.99	—	21.02	6.35	6.71	362.70	371.25	377.34	371.83	352.22	352.22	352.22	352.22	
Stores and Paper (15)		155.83	+0.5	18.73	7.75	6.76	155.89	153.19	153.18	153.28	153.17	153.17	153.17	153.17	
Tobacco (3)		275.99	+0.3	12.49	6.38	10.66	276.86	276.33	275.75	273.27	259.98	259.98	259.98	259.98	
Textiles (23)		182.09	+0.3	17.71	6.23	7.30	182.68	182.66	182.66	182.66	182.66	182.66	182.66	182.66	
Tobacco (3)		238.30	—	23.28	7.88	5.00	238.21	238.25	237.23	229.23	222.94	222.94	222.94	222.94	
Toys and Games (6)		93.10	+0.3	23.83	6.98	4.95	92.80	92.51	92.10	91.65	100.70	100.70	100.70	100.70	
Consumer Electronics (99)		199.27	+0.1	15.60	6.25	8.26	198.98	197.91	198.31	198.31	198.31	198.31	198.31	198.31	
Chemicals (13)		275.99	+0.1	15.60	6.25	8.26	275.77	277.86	278.59	278.28	255.72	255.72	255.72	255.72	
Pharmaceutical Products (7)		249.00	+0.4	11.14	4.67	10.87	248.77	248.77	248.77	248.77	248.77	248.77	248.77	248.77	
Oil Equipment (6)		140.62	+2.3	17.30	5.50	5.69	137.27	135.69	135.69	131.61	129.05	129.05	129.05	129.05	
Shipping (10)		620.21	+0.5	14.40	7.23	8.41	618.08	618.08	618.08	618.08	618.08	618.08	618.08	618.08	
Textiles (57)		215.44	+0.5	17.87	6.67	7.44	214.36	214.36	214.36	214.36	214.36	214.36	214.36	214.36	
INDUSTRIAL GROUP (494)		261.17	+0.1	16.80	5.80	8.26	261.60	261.60	261.60	261.60	261.60	261.60	261.60	261.60	
Oil (6)		510.97	+0.6	13.67	3.96	7.95	513.61	511.21	511.21	511.21	511.21	511.21	511.21	511.21	
500 SHARE INDEX		3465.93	+0.1	15.85	5.98	8.16	3465.75	3464.36	3464.36	3464.36	3464.36	3464.36	3464.36	3464.36	
500 SHARE INDEX (115)		173.71	—	—	—	—	173.76	172.69	172.33	170.55	174.86	174.86	174.86	174.86	
Bank (6)		205.91	+0.8	22.88	5.72	6.55	207.66	205.11	203.77	202.77	198.62	198.62	198.62	198.62	
Business Finance (10)		218.26	—	—	8.11	—	218.26	219.30	218.06	218.06	228.41	228.41	228.41	228.41	
Life Purchase (5)		165.38	+2.0	14.73	5.16	8.96	164.78	164.78	164.78	164.78	164.78	164.78	164.78	164.78	
Insurance (Life) (10)		139.21	+1.1	16.71	6.75	—	137.71	137.00	136.81	131.61	129.05	129.05	129.05	129.05	
Insurance (Composite) (7)		124.84	+0.2	—	7.02	—	124.55	124.46	124.73	124.73	124.73	124.73	124.73	124.73	
Insurance Brokers (10)		313.64	+0.4	15.25	5.39	9.36	312.92	313.87	313.87	313.87	313.87	313.87	313.87	313.87	
Investment Banks (14)		80.71	+1.6	17.33	6.07	79.65	79.95	79.95	79.78	79.78	84.20	84.20	84.20	84.20	
Miscellaneous (10)		114.29	+0.2	16.72	6.97	42.58	114.28	114.28	114.28	114.28	114.28	114.28	114.28	114.28	
Property (13)		81.79	+0.3	19.65	6.89	5.36	81.64	81.62	81.62	81.62	81.62	81.62	81.62	81.62	
Investment Trusts (111)		207.93	+0.8	—	5.08	—	206.27	206.89	205.88	205.88	205.88	205.88	205.88	205.88	
Finance (14)		103.62	+1.0	18.14	6.87	6.79	103.55	102.17	102.17	102.17	102.17	102.17	102.17	102.17	
Finance (14)		312.00	+0.1	15.66	7.32	8.02	308.00	298.00	298.00	298.00	298.00	298.00	298.00	298.00	
ALL SHARE INDEX (750)		228.10	+0.2	—	5.62	—	228.74	228.65	228.69	228.69	228.69	228.69	228.69	228.69	



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High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg.	Yield	% Div.	% P/E
105.9	99.3	Treasury 11/15/79	99.3	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7
97.9	95.9	Treasury 11/15/79	95.9	-3.4	10.7	10.7	10.7
104.9	98.9	Treasury 11/15/79	98.9	-10.0	10.7	10.7	10.7
97.9	95.9	Treasury 11/15/79	95.9	-3.4	10.7	10.7	10.7
104.9	98.9	Treasury 11/15/79	98.9	-10.0	10.7	10.7	10.7
97.9	95.9	Treasury 11/15/79	95.9	-3.4	10.7	10.7	10.7
104.9	98.9	Treasury 11/15/79	98.9	-10.0	10.7	10.7	10.7
97.9	95.9	Treasury 11/15/79	95.9	-3.4	10.7	10.7	10.7
104.9	98.9	Treasury 11/15/79	98.9	-10.0	10.7	10.7	10.7
97.9	95.9	Treasury 11/15/79	95.9	-3.4	10.7	10.7	10.7

Five to Fifteen Years

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg.	Yield	% Div.	% P/E
89.9	80.9	Funding 11/15/79	80.9	-6.7	10.3	10.3	10.3
89.9	80.9	Funding 11/15/79	80.9	-6.7	10.3	10.3	10.3
89.9	80.9	Funding 11/15/79	80.9	-6.7	10.3	10.3	10.3
89.9	80.9	Funding 11/15/79	80.9	-6.7	10.3	10.3	10.3
89.9	80.9	Funding 11/15/79	80.9	-6.7	10.3	10.3	10.3

Over Fifteen Years

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg.	Yield	% Div.	% P/E
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7

Undated

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg.	Yield	% Div.	% P/E
37.9	30.9	Consolidated	30.9	-13.0	11.7	11.7	11.7
37.9	30.9	Consolidated	30.9	-13.0	11.7	11.7	11.7
37.9	30.9	Consolidated	30.9	-13.0	11.7	11.7	11.7
37.9	30.9	Consolidated	30.9	-13.0	11.7	11.7	11.7
37.9	30.9	Consolidated	30.9	-13.0	11.7	11.7	11.7

INTERNATIONAL BANK

CORPORATION LOANS

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg.	Yield	% Div.	% P/E
99.9	91.9	Bank of America	91.9	-10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3
99.9	91.9	Bank of America	91.9	-10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3
99.9	91.9	Bank of America	91.9	-10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3
99.9	91.9	Bank of America	91.9	-10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3
99.9	91.9	Bank of America	91.9	-10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3

COMMONWEALTH & AFRICAN LOANS

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg.	Yield	% Div.	% P/E
99.9	91.9	Bank of America	91.9	-10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3
99.9	91.9	Bank of America	91.9	-10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3
99.9	91.9	Bank of America	91.9	-10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3
99.9	91.9	Bank of America	91.9	-10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3
99.9	91.9	Bank of America	91.9	-10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3

Public Bonds and Ind.

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg.	Yield	% Div.	% P/E
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg.	Yield	% Div.	% P/E
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7
109.9	100.9	Treasury 11/15/79	100.9	-11.1	11.7	11.7	11.7

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NEW CRISIS FOR TEHRAN CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT

Chrysler  
to halt  
Iran car  
work

By Arthur Smith,  
Midlands Correspondent

CHRYSLER UK is to halt production of car components for Iran and lay off nearly 1,500 Midlands workers for six weeks. Short-time working will be necessary for a further eight weeks at least.

Shop stewards were told yesterday that the cuts had been forced by problems at the Iran National car company, which assembles component kits supplied by the Stoke engine factory, Coventry.

To soften the impact, an additional 300 Stoke workers will be transferred to the nearby Ryton assembly plant, where output of the successful Alpine model will be increased.

The Iran contract, worth more than £100m a year, is one of the biggest ever won by the UK motor industry and was an important factor in influencing the Government's rescue of Chrysler UK in 1975. Its suspension is certain to affect other Midlands components suppliers.

The Iran National factory has been idle for four of the past six weeks because of component shortages. A customs strike has delayed two ships carrying about 18,000 kits from Chrysler UK — the equivalent of about two months' supply from the Stoke factory.

That delay alone will cut Chrysler exports to Iran for 1978 by about a fifth. It also creates a log jam which must be cleared by Iran National before production can be resumed at Stoke.

Lay-offs

Chrysler has maintained full employment so far in Coventry, but says that by January 26, when the lay-offs are due to become effective, stocks in the UK will be equivalent to a further month's supply.

The level of future employment at Stoke, where about 40 per cent of the workforce is engaged on the Iran contract, is clearly dependent on political developments in that country in the next few weeks.

Chrysler is assessing the situation daily, but on present forecast it has told trade unions that short-time working will be necessary until mid-May.

The lay-offs will affect 1,200 workers at Stoke, 140 in the packing section at Baginton, Coventry, and 123 in Chrysler component subsidiaries at Coventry and Birmingham.

The transfer of 300 workers to Ryton will take the total there to just over 2,000 and it is planned to increase Alpine output from about \$25 a week to 1,000.

The Alpine, which won a 2 per cent share of the UK market last year, has been improved recently by offering a wider choice of engines and finish.

Continued from Page 1

Shipbuilding

for the Bank and Savill Line, has been delayed by almost two months as a result of the refusal of officials in Brussels to grant permission for the grant of almost £13m essential to bring the UK price down to that of its competitors overseas.

Bank and Savill called for delivery of the first of the ships by the end of January next year. The shipping line will meet British Shipbuilders on Thursday to discuss the position.

The company said that unless the ships are built at the agreed price — at a total loss of approaching £12m to British Shipbuilders — the Government getting the go-ahead to use the shipbuilding intervention fund, the letters of intent for the ships will be cancelled.

The Commission has indicated that a third contract British Shipbuilders wished to submit was also unlikely to receive approval. The order is for one of two SD 14 general cargo ships ordered by the Royal Nepal Shipping Company in October at a total cost of £10m. The ships would trade through Indian ports.

Other contracts which have been delayed as a result of the Commission's refusal to sanction use of the subsidy fund, include a £12m order for two SD 18 cargo vessels for a consortium of Greek owners. This order has not been confirmed by the Greeks.

Another contract which has not been finalised is a second order for ships from Poland, and officials in the Brussels Commission have made it clear that this would not receive the same sympathetic treatment granted to the £15m Polish contract signed in November 1977.

Minister withdraws

BY SIMON HENDERSON IN TEHRAN

IRAN'S civilian government faced a new crisis yesterday with the withdrawal of the minister expected to be the vital contact with the Shah and the powerful military establishment.

The government of Dr. Shapur Bakhtiar, appointed by the Shah last Saturday, was also under attack by the main political opposition, the National Front. In Paris the Shah's main religious adversary, the Ayatollah Khomeini, said in an interview that there might be a military coup in Iran.

The Shah is believed to be ready to go abroad but only when a stable government has been established. It is a widely held view that the presence of the Shah remains an obstacle to forming such a government.

The session of Parliament called to approve the new government was postponed following news that General Fereidoun Jam had declined to take up his portfolio as

Minister of War. The decision was stunning blow to Dr. Bakhtiar as the general was expected to be the contact man between the government on one side and the Shah and his military commanders on the other.

Meanwhile, the Shah announced he was appointing General Abdolali Badrei, a hard-line royalist army officer, as commander of the imperial ground forces.

The National Front, the main political opposition group, to which Dr. Bakhtiar also belonged, called a Press conference yesterday to denounce the new government as illegitimate.

Kevin Done, Energy Correspondent, adds: The Royal Dutch/Shell group has warned its crude oil customers worldwide that deliveries could be cut by 5-7 per cent over the whole of the winter period because of the disruption in the Iranian oilfields.

In the final three months of last year, supplies were cut by

about 10 per cent, Shell said yesterday. Its oil supply programme for the six month period to the end of March is based on the assumption that there will be some improvement in Iranian oil output towards the end of the first three months of this year.

Iranian production at the end of December slumped to a level that could not even meet domestic demand and all oil exports were halted.

Shell has a 14 per cent interest in the consortium of Western oil companies responsible for producing the bulk of Iranian crude. Normally the consortium would be producing more than 5m barrels a day during the winter with exports in excess of 3m barrels a day.

Last week British Petroleum, which has a 40 per cent share in the consortium, warned customers that deliveries could be cut by 30-35 per cent during the first quarter of this year.

Hard times and hard bargaining in Iran Page 3

Moves in Sweden to stop  
Volvo deal with Norway

BY WILLIAM DULLFORCE IN STOCKHOLM

THE BOARD of Sweden's Shareholders' Association advised Volvo shareholders yesterday to reject the sale of 40 per cent of the car and truck manufacturer to Norway.

By so doing it has laid the ground for a proxy battle with the Volvo board and almost certainly stirred up a political storm in Sweden over the power of shareholders.

After an all-day meeting into the early hours of the morning the shareholders' chairman, Mr. Håkan Gergis, said the board was unanimous in advising against the SKr 950m (£106m) deal with Norway "in its present form."

The question of Volvo's capital requirements should be dealt with at a later general shareholders' meeting, after other alternatives had been examined it said.

An extraordinary general meeting is due on January 30

to decide on the Norwegian agreement, signed by Volvo's managing director, Mr. Pehr Gyllenhammar. A negative vote by 33.34 per cent of the voting rights would block the deal.

At the last Volvo general meeting the shareholders' association held 12,000 proxies representing 29 per cent of the voting rights and 33.7 per cent of the rights represented at the meeting. Some institutional shareholders have already expressed dissatisfaction with the sale to Norway.

Mr. Gergis said his association was sending proxy forms to all Volvo's 130,000 shareholders with a letter explaining the association's objections to the Norwegian agreement.

On Monday the Volvo Board announced that it too was circulating all shareholders asking for proxies in support of the agreement.

The Norwegian agreement was "a creative move," said Mr. Gergis. But in its present form it was not good either for the company or its shareholders.

His Board considered the price too low. Volvo's truck and bus operations alone could be valued at around SKr 2bn. It was "giving away" the car and construction machinery operations.

In Oslo last night Mr. Odvar Nordli, the Norwegian Prime Minister, reiterated that his Government regarded the Volvo contract and the industrial agreement with Sweden, under which Sweden would get long-term oil supplies from Norway, as a package to be accepted or rejected as a whole.

Sale of Volvo shares to Norway is backed by the Swedish trade unions and the Social Democratic Opposition. Their reaction to the shareholder recommendation has been fierce.

Money supply under control

BY DAVID FREUD

THE MONEY SUPPLY appears to have remained well under control last month, according to banking figures published yesterday.

The underlying level of bank lending increased modestly, in line with the previous month.

The banking sector as a whole fell further below the official credit limit for the expansion of its interest-bearing eligible liabilities — the level above which banks pay penalties to the Bank of England.

At the same time it was disclosed that supplies of the 1985 medium-dated tap stock issued last November were exhausted. There was speculation in the markets about the possibility of the issue of a replacement stock shortly.

The banking figures suggest

that the sterling money stock on the wider definition (M3), used for official targets, increased by roughly 1 per cent in the month to mid-December. This includes cash and bank current and seven-day deposit accounts.

If this increase is confirmed in the money supply figures published next week, the annual rate of expansion in the first two months of the current period will be well below the lower end of the 8 to 12 per cent target range for growth. This range was rolled forward in October for the coming 12-month period.

The main pointer to the December money supply comes from the increase in the total eligible liabilities of the banking system.

These, the main deposit funds of the banks and an important constituent of the money stock,

rose 0.8 per cent in the month to mid-December to £45bn.

The increase in the money supply will probably be closely aligned to this rise, as seasonal factors tending to reduce the money stock are likely to be offset by a larger than expected expansion in note circulation last month.

Sterling advances to the UK private sector by the London clearing banks fell by £101m. When seasonal factors are taken into account this represented a rise of about £200m, compared with an underlying estimated increase of £220m in the previous month.

The banking sector's interest-bearing eligible liabilities, expanded by only 0.1 per cent, compared with the monthly 1 per cent allowed under the credit rules.

Banking tables Page 26

Air Canada resists airport move

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

A MAJOR ROW between the UK Government and Air Canada seems likely over Britain's insistence on the Canadian airline moving all its scheduled passenger services from Heathrow Airport, London, to Gatwick by the early 1980s, to ease congestion.

Efforts to get Spanish and Portuguese airlines to move

have resulted in angry exchanges between the UK and Spanish governments. At the same time, after negotiations lasting most of last year, Scandinavian Airlines System has agreed to operate some flights out of Gatwick under a new air services pact reached before Christmas.

The UK and Canadian govern-

ments, along with Air Canada, have been talking for over a year about the British desire to ease Heathrow's growing problems by moving out to Gatwick some "blocks" of air services.

Since Christmas, the UK Department of Trade has made it clear in renewed discussions in London that Britain was no longer considering whether Air Canada moved to Gatwick, but when and how.

The Canadians tend to believe that the UK is trying to trade off future improvements in Air Canada services to the UK against the airline moving to Gatwick. Britain, however, maintains that the two issues are separate.

The Canadian team has returned home for further considerations and the view in Whitehall is that the talks held so far have been constructive, and comparatively calm, although it is admitted that Air Canada is likely to remain hostile to any move.

But the Canadians feel much more strongly than the UK officials seem prepared to admit. Last year, Air Canada said formally that it had no intention of quitting Heathrow in a period of increasing North Atlantic competition — and there has been no indication of any change in this attitude.

TV soccer  
deal  
declared  
void

By David Churchill,  
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

LONDON WEEKEND TELEVISION'S bid for exclusive coverage of Football League games next season has been blocked by the Office of Fair Trading.

The office said yesterday that the deal was void under the terms of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1973, because it had not been registered with it in time.

London Weekend has the option of seeking a ruling from the Restrictive Practices Court on whether its agreement with the Football League should be registered or re-negotiating the agreement and providing the office with full details in time.

Last night, however, London Weekend appeared uncertain as to its next move. The BBC, which shares football coverage with independent television, also seemed unsure of the new legal position.

The agreement was formally placed on the register of restrictive practices by the Office of Fair Trading on Monday. All restrictive trade agreements, whether or not declared void, have to be placed on that register for eventual scrutiny by the Restrictive Practices Court.

If details of the agreement are given to the office within a certain time, the restrictive trade agreement may continue until the court rules otherwise.

Under the 1973 Act, restrictive agreements must be notified either within three months of being signed or before the day when they take effect, whichever is sooner.

In this case, the office has decided that the restrictions came into force at the time that the agreement was signed. Thus, to comply with the law, the office should have been given the details before the 25th deal was signed.

London Weekend is unlikely to win an appeal to the Restrictive Practices Court.

However, if London Weekend seeks to renegotiate the agreement with the Football League, it might meet a counter-bid from the BBC, which had faced losing its successful Saturday night programme, Match of the Day. The BBC is also taking legal action against the deal.

Weather

UK TODAY

COLD everywhere with frost early and late. Sleet or snow in the south. Showers in the north. London, S.E. England, Central S. England

Outbreaks of sleet or snow at first. Sunny spells and isolated showers developing. Max. 4C (39F).

E. Anglia, S. Midlands, E. Coast, W. Midlands, Channel Isles, W. Country, N. Midlands

Outbreaks of sleet or snow at first. Scattered wintry showers and sunny intervals later. Max. 5C (41F).

S. Wales, N. Wales, N.W. England, Lakes, Isle of Man

Wintry showers. Sunny intervals. Max. 6C (43F).

N.E. England, West of Scotland, Scottish Islands

Outbreaks of sleet or snow at first. Brighter later with scattered wintry showers. Max. 3C (37F).

Argyll, Cent. Scotland, W. Islands, Highlands, Ulster

Heavy showers. Rather cold. Max. 1C (34F).

Outlook: Bright or sunny intervals. More snow in the west. Night frost.

BUSINESS CENTRES			
	Y'day	midday	Y'day
	°C	°C	°F
Amster.	11	12	54
Athens	11	12	54
Bombay	21	21	70
Buenos	10	10	50
Calcutta	21	21	70
Cardiff	10	10	50
Cebu	21	21	70
Dublin	10	10	50
Hong Kong	21	21	70
London	10	10	50
Lyons	10	10	50
Manila	21	21	70
Medan	21	21	70
Montreal	10	10	50
Mumbai	21	21	70
Nairobi	21	21	70
Paris	10	10	50
Perth	10	10	50
Rangoon	21	21	70
Reykjavik	10	10	50
Rome	10	10	50
Singapore	21	21	70
Sydney	10	10	50
Tokyo	10	10	50
Toronto	10	10	50
Yokohama	10	10	50

C-Cloudy, F-Fair, Fo-Fog, R-Rain, S-Snow, SI-Sleet.

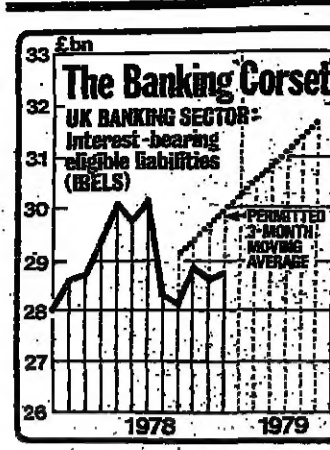
THE LEX COLUMN

The banks inside  
an ageing corset

The December banking figures were much in line with expectations with the 0.3 per cent rise in eligible liabilities being taken as a proxy for the growth in the full money supply. The interest bearing element was only fractionally up but the non-interest bearing part rose by one per cent which is surprising given that the current high interest rate regime would be expected to reduce the relative attractiveness of sight deposits. However, there seems to have been an unexpectedly large surge in notes and coin in the run-up to Christmas.

This is normally a seasonally weak period for bank lending and the clearing banks' sterling advances did fall. However, after seasonal adjustment, the underlying rate of increase in lending will probably be seen to be much in line with recent experience — say £400m per month. So far the banks seem to have had surprisingly little difficulty in adjusting to the

Index fell 2.2 to 482.2



For the major buyers which can negotiate a contract price below these levels the squeeze on margins is unbearable.

Unless demand for heavy fuel oil were to rise and allow an increase in refinery throughput, the price of naphtha would be unlikely to fall. At the moment light crude, from which both naphtha and gasoline are most economically derived, is scarce because of Saudi production policies and high demand for gasoline; there are uncomfortable signs that the Eastern bloc is becoming a net importer of naphtha. Any deterioration in the authorities seem to be satisfied that the corset is curbing the growth in bank lending without starving industry of funds.

Of course the clearing banks still have to cope with the corset as the tax gathering season approaches and corporate liquidity deteriorates. Initially, the authorities have ways of easing the strain — by releasing special deposits, for example — but the fact is that the longer the corset remains the greater are the distortions being built up in the financial system. Fortunately the corset is not envisaged as a permanent measure.

Some European producers are afraid that a recession in the U.S. might provoke a high volume of competitively-priced U.S. imports to Europe, particularly as U.S. producers have wider access to natural gas, rather than naphtha, as a feedstock for olefin production.

The optimists point out that there has been a fair volume of petrochemical buying in before price increases take effect, which suggests that the immediate customer anyway, expects the new prices to hold. BP, typically, has just brought in across-the-board rises and has warned its customers to expect more.

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